EverAfter

OLIVIA VIEWEG

Content warning: graphic violence, attempted suicide

Story and art by Olivia Vieweg
Coloring assistance by Ines Korth and Adrian Vom Baur
Translation by Olivia Vieweg, with special thanks to Ines Korth and Adrian Wilding

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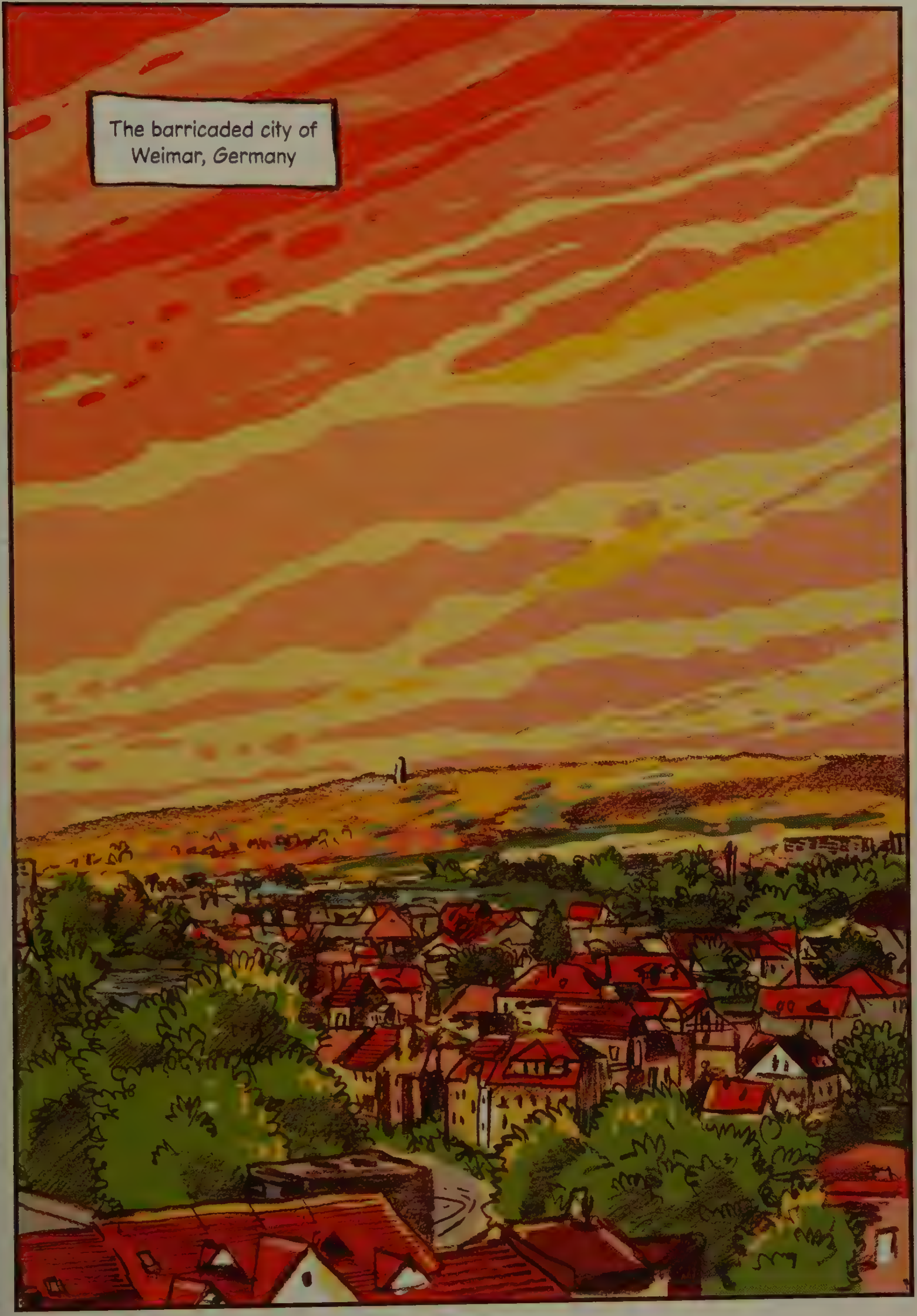
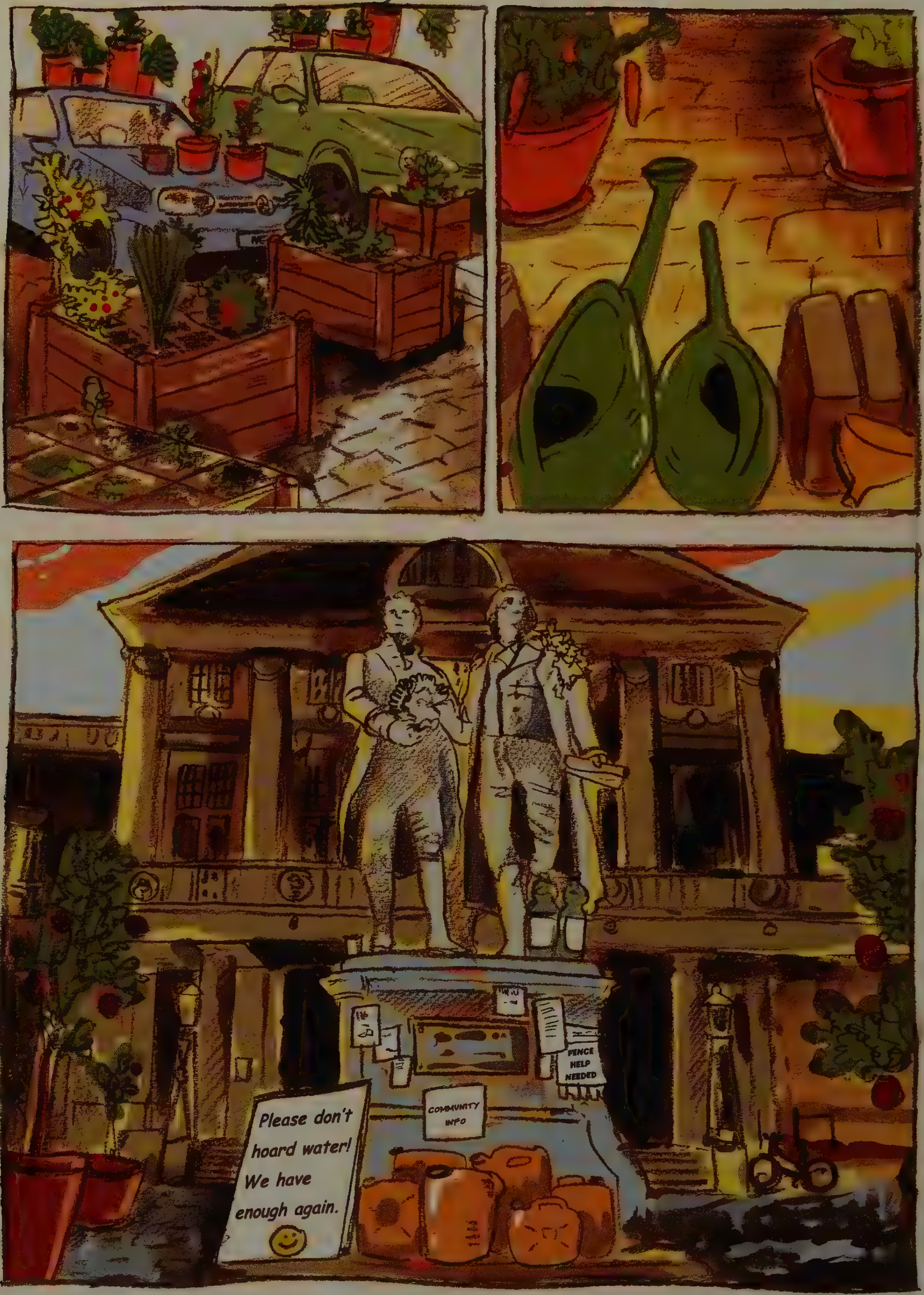
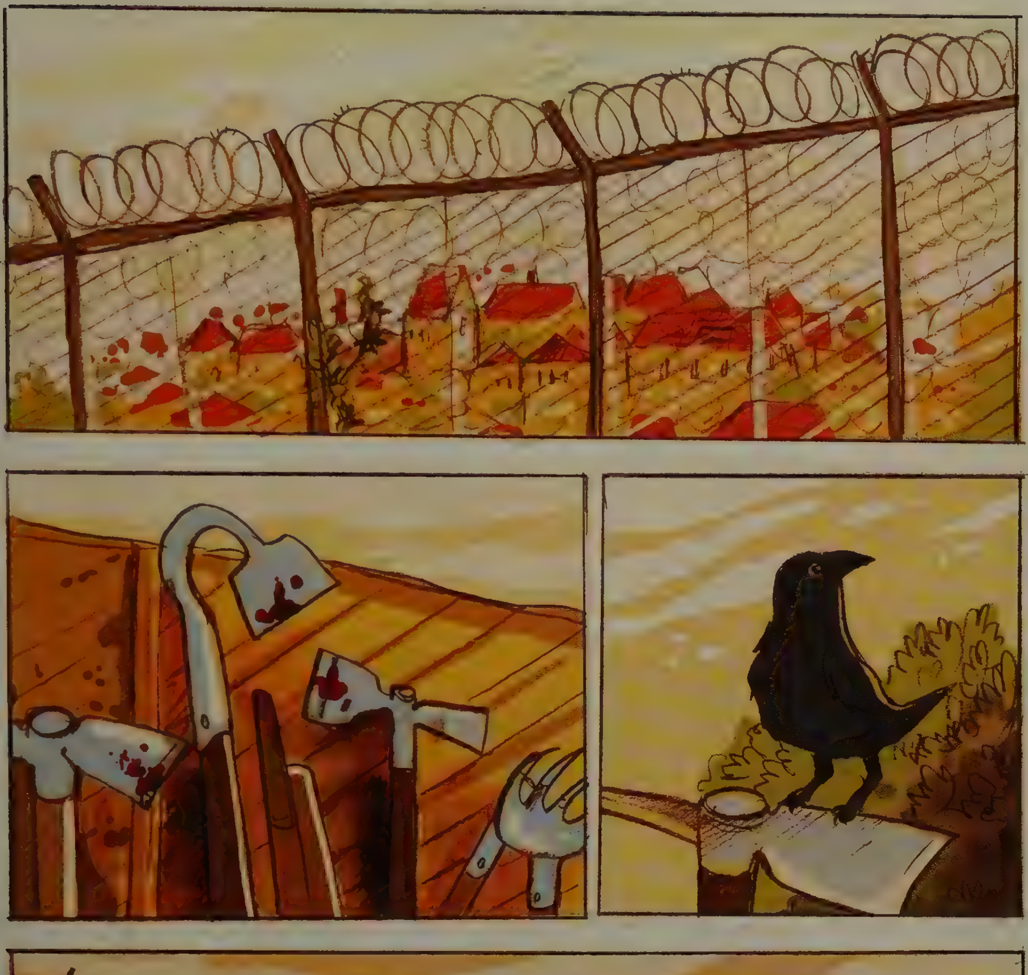
EverAfter

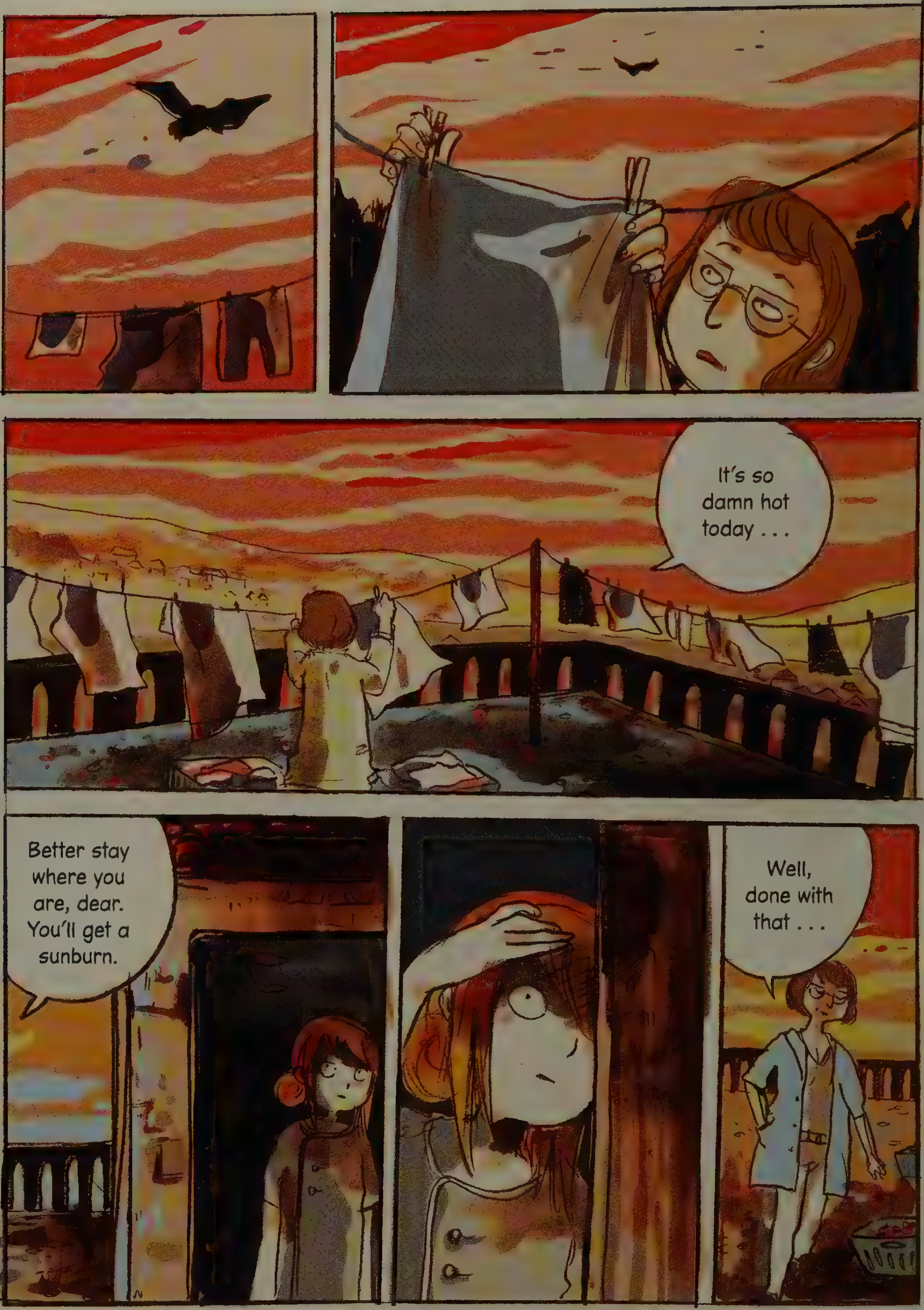
OLIVIA VIEWEG

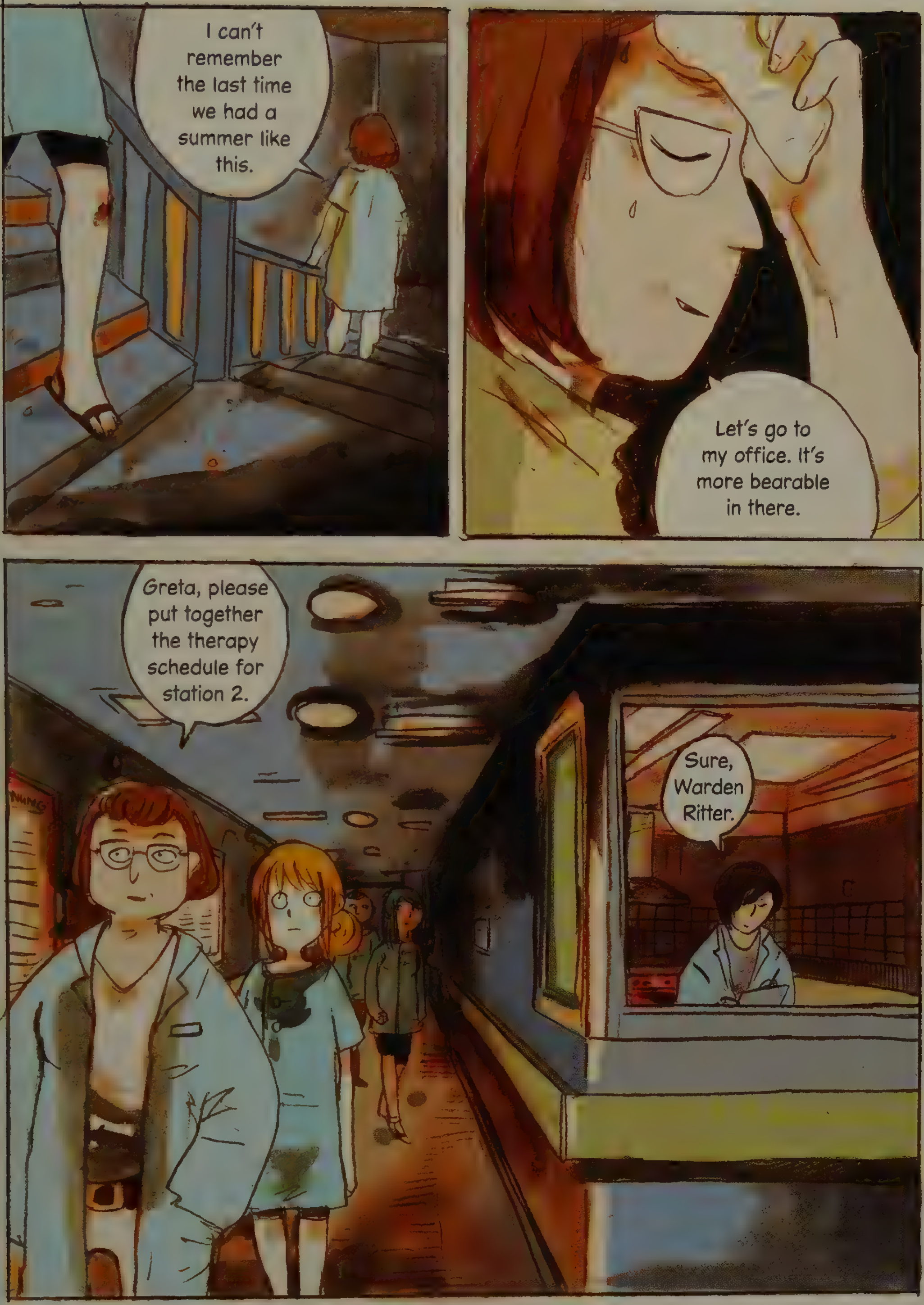
Graphic Universe™ • Minneapolis

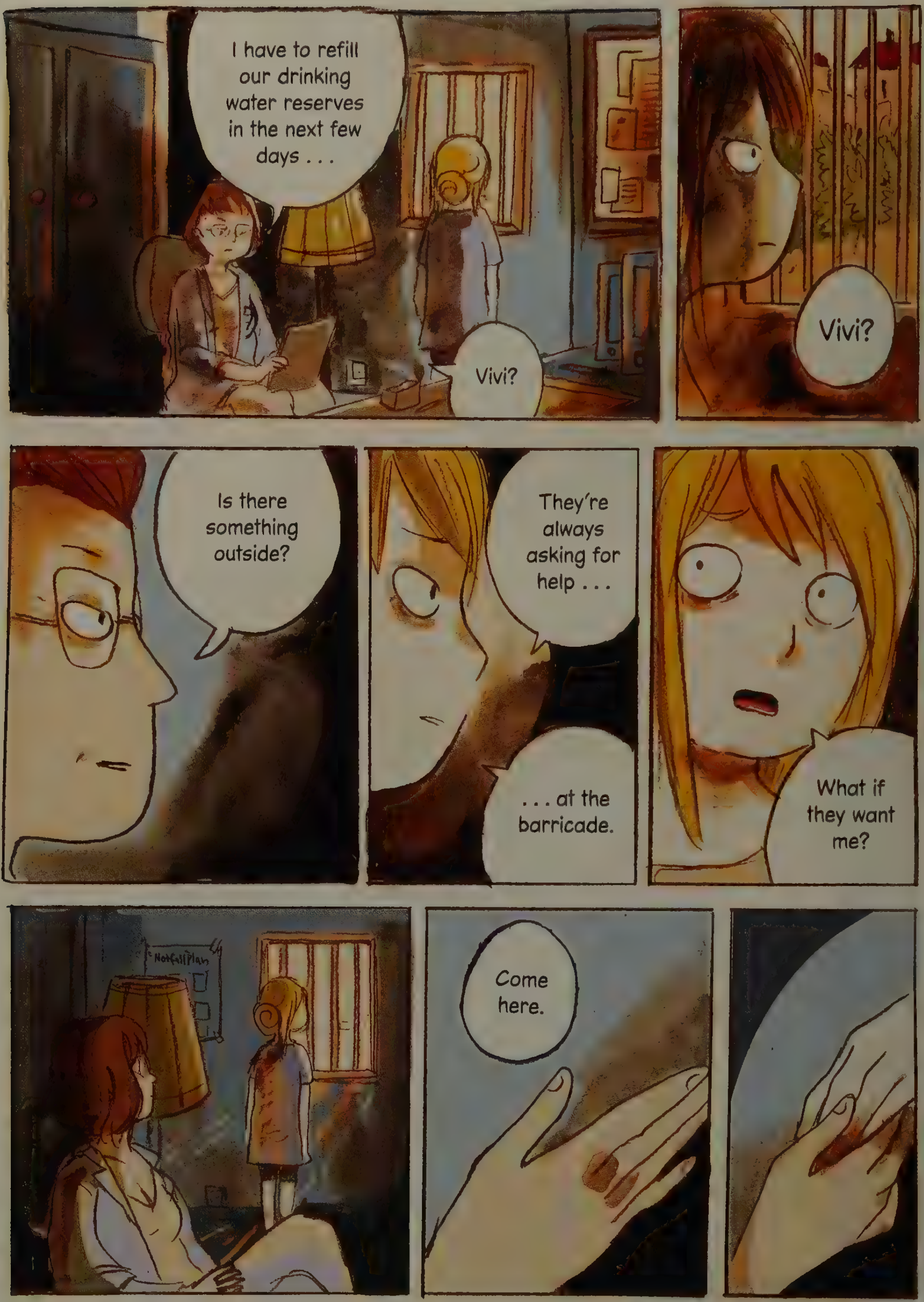

The barricaded city of Weimar, Germany

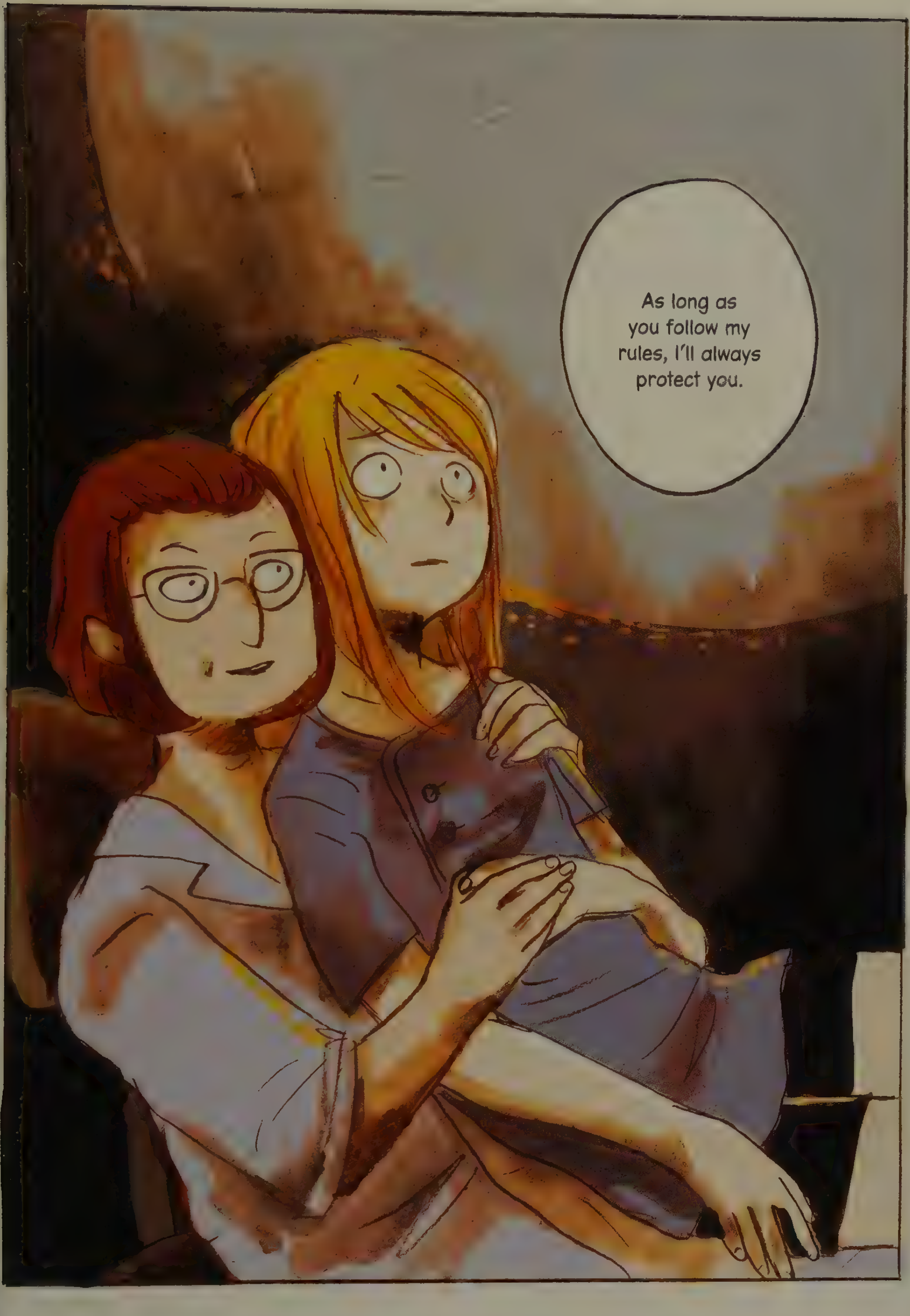

FENCE HELP NEEDED
COMMUNITY INFO
Please don't hoard water! We have enough again.

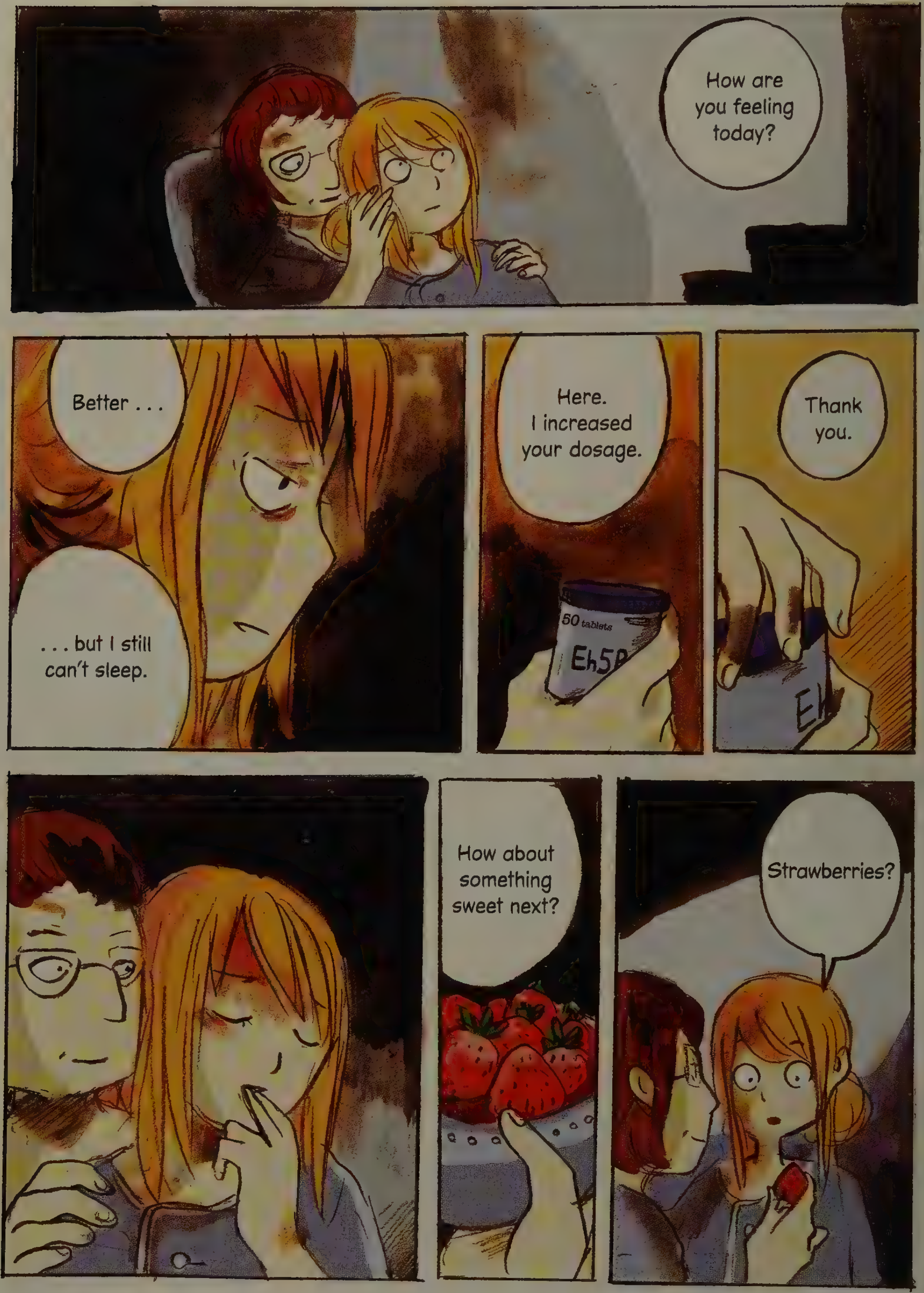

KSCHHH...!!

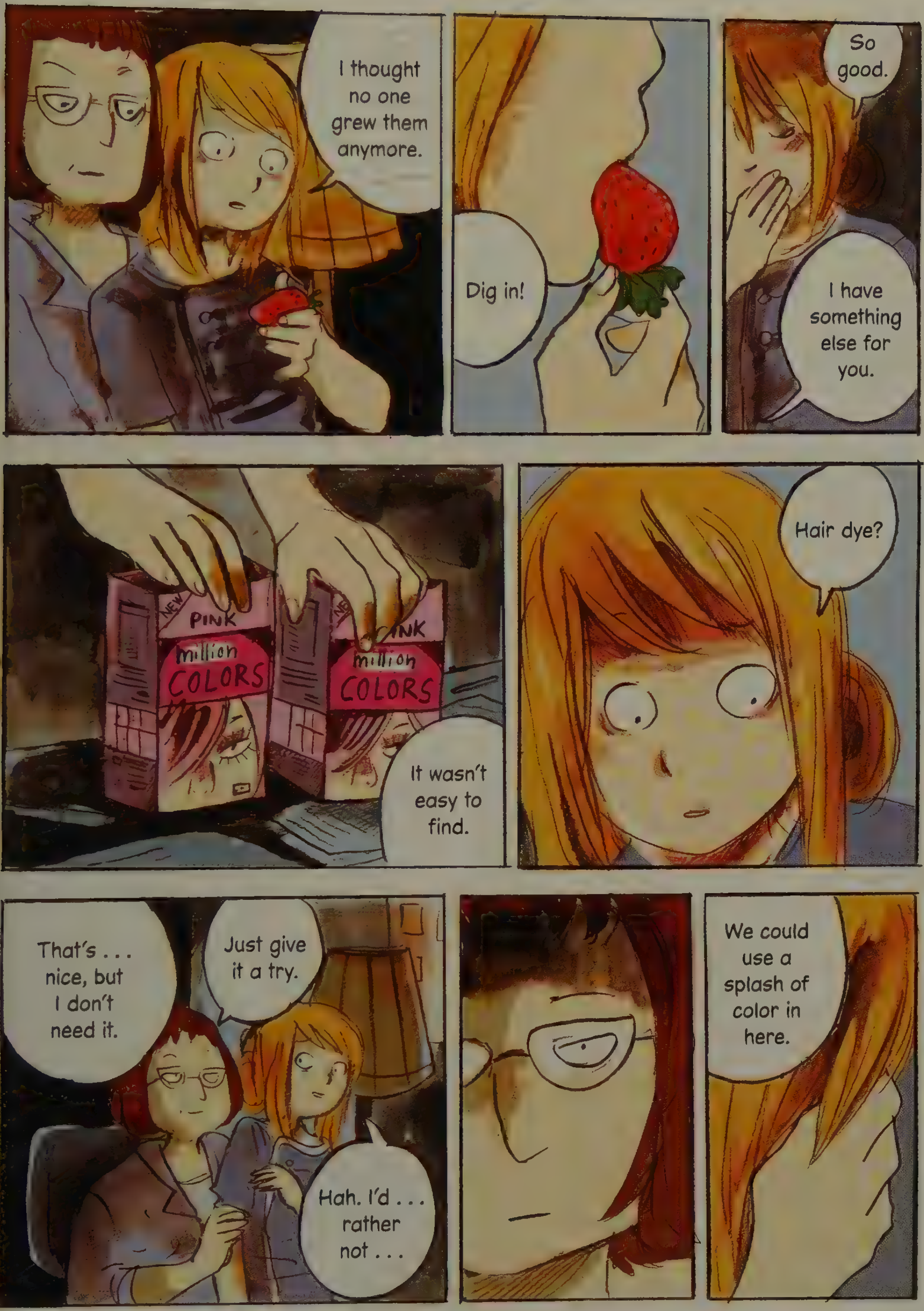

It's so damn hot today . . .
Better stay where you are, dear. You'll get a sunburn.
Well, done with that . . .

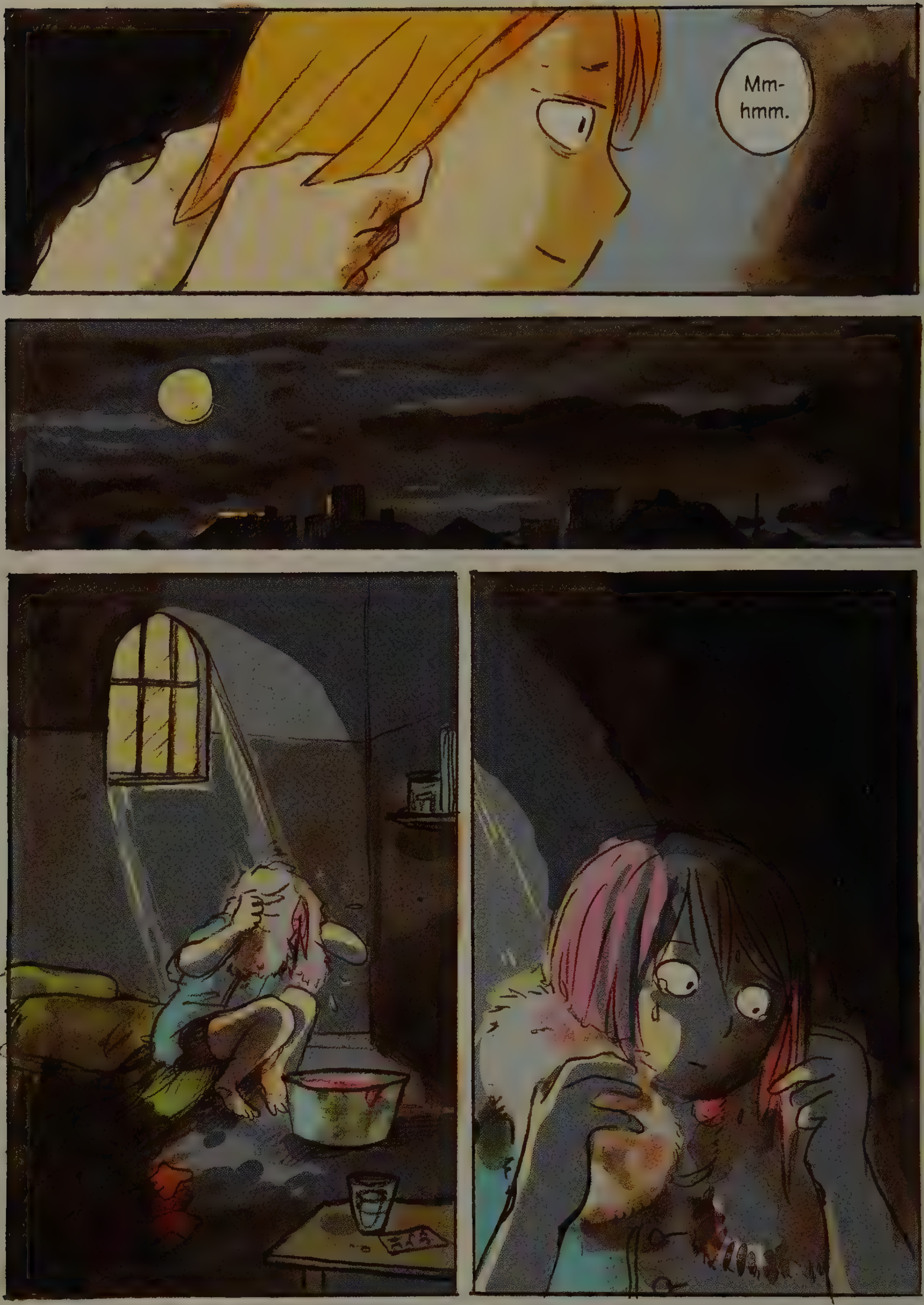

I can't remember the last time we had a summer like this.
Let's go to my office. It's more bearable in there.
Greta, please put together the therapy schedule for station 2.
Sure, Warden Ritter.

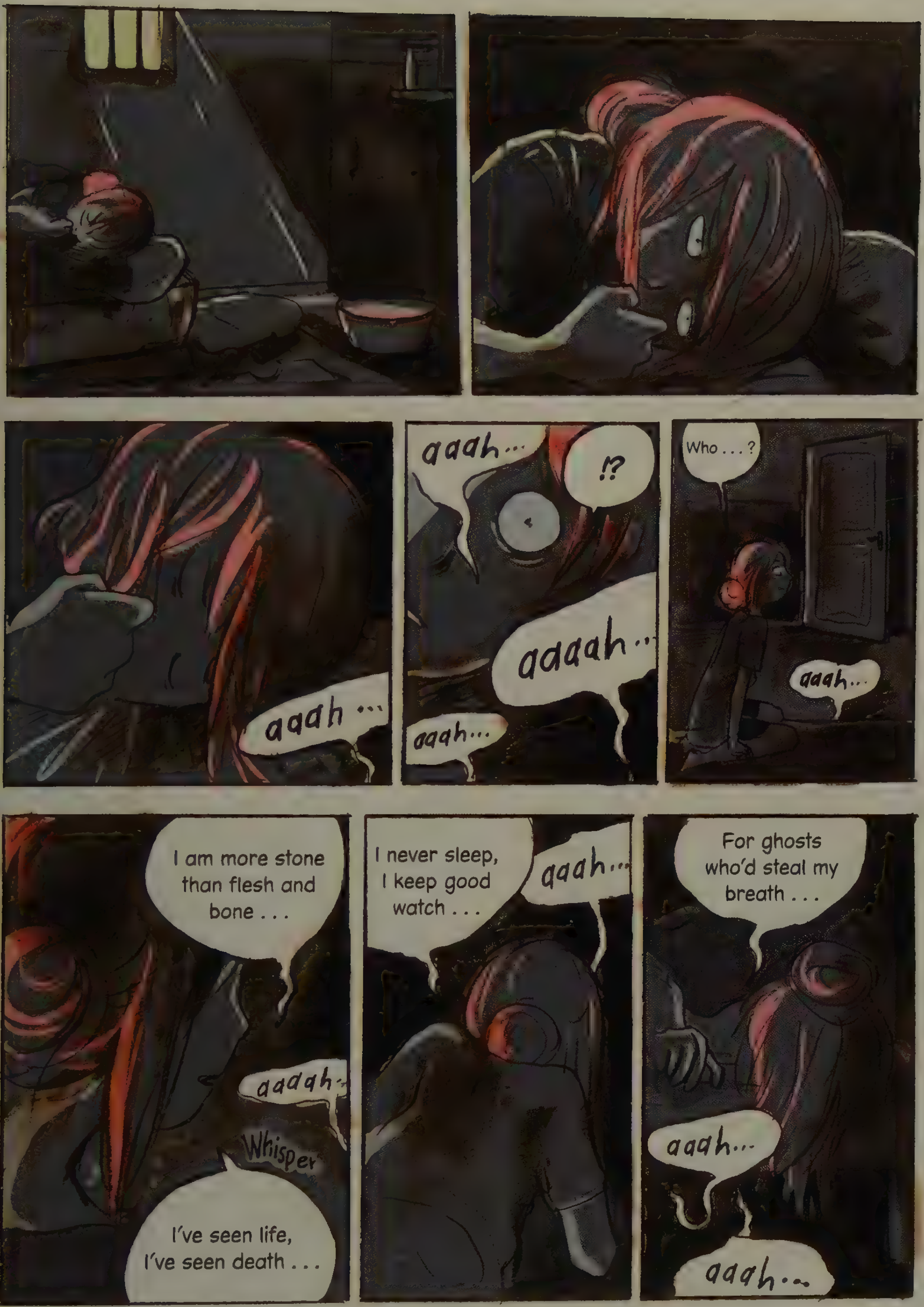

I have to refill our drinking water reserves in the next few days . . .
Vivi?
Vivi?
Is there something outside?
They're always asking for help . . .
. . . at the barricade.
What if they want me?
Notfallplan
Come here.

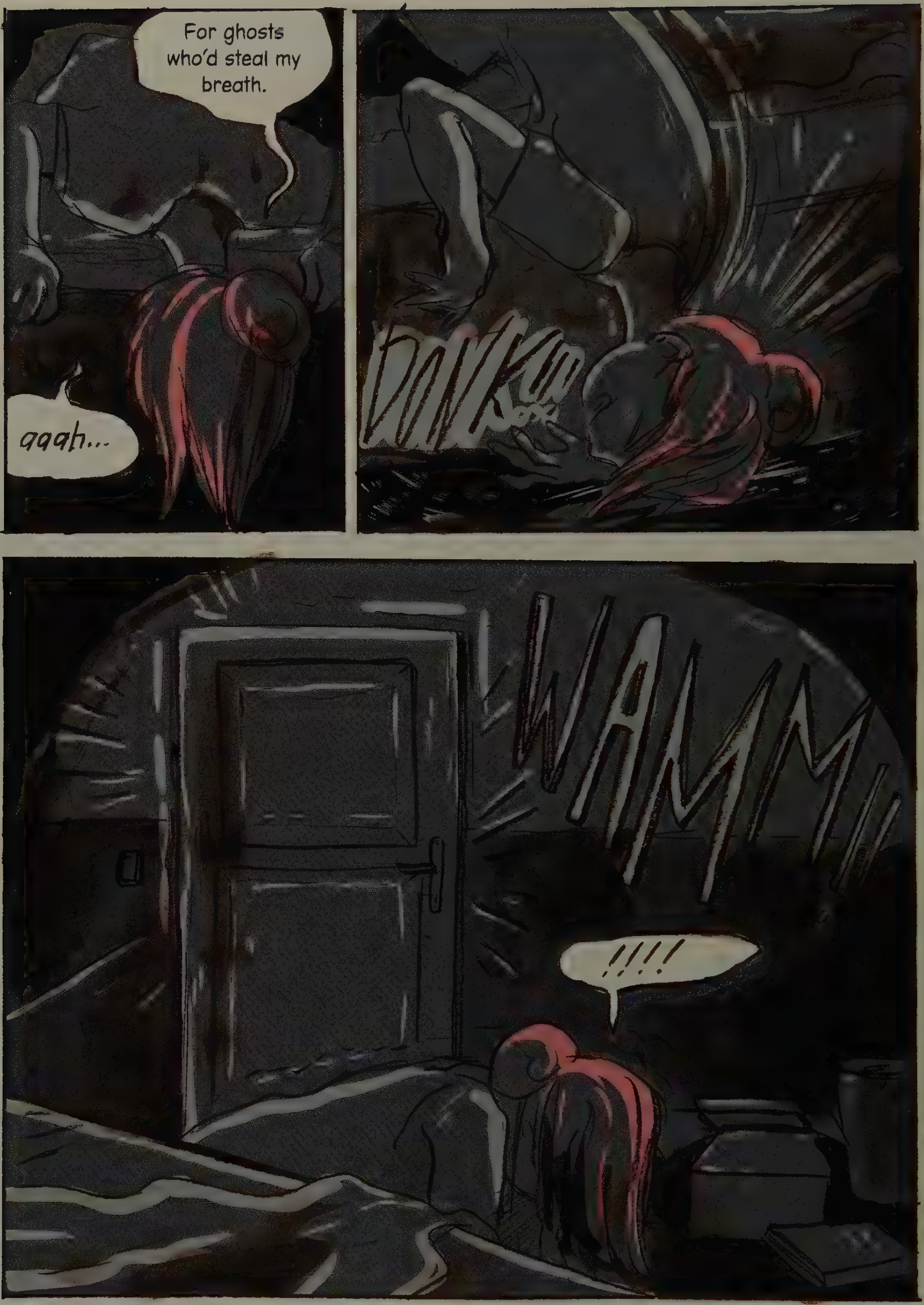

As long as you follow my rules, I'll always protect you.

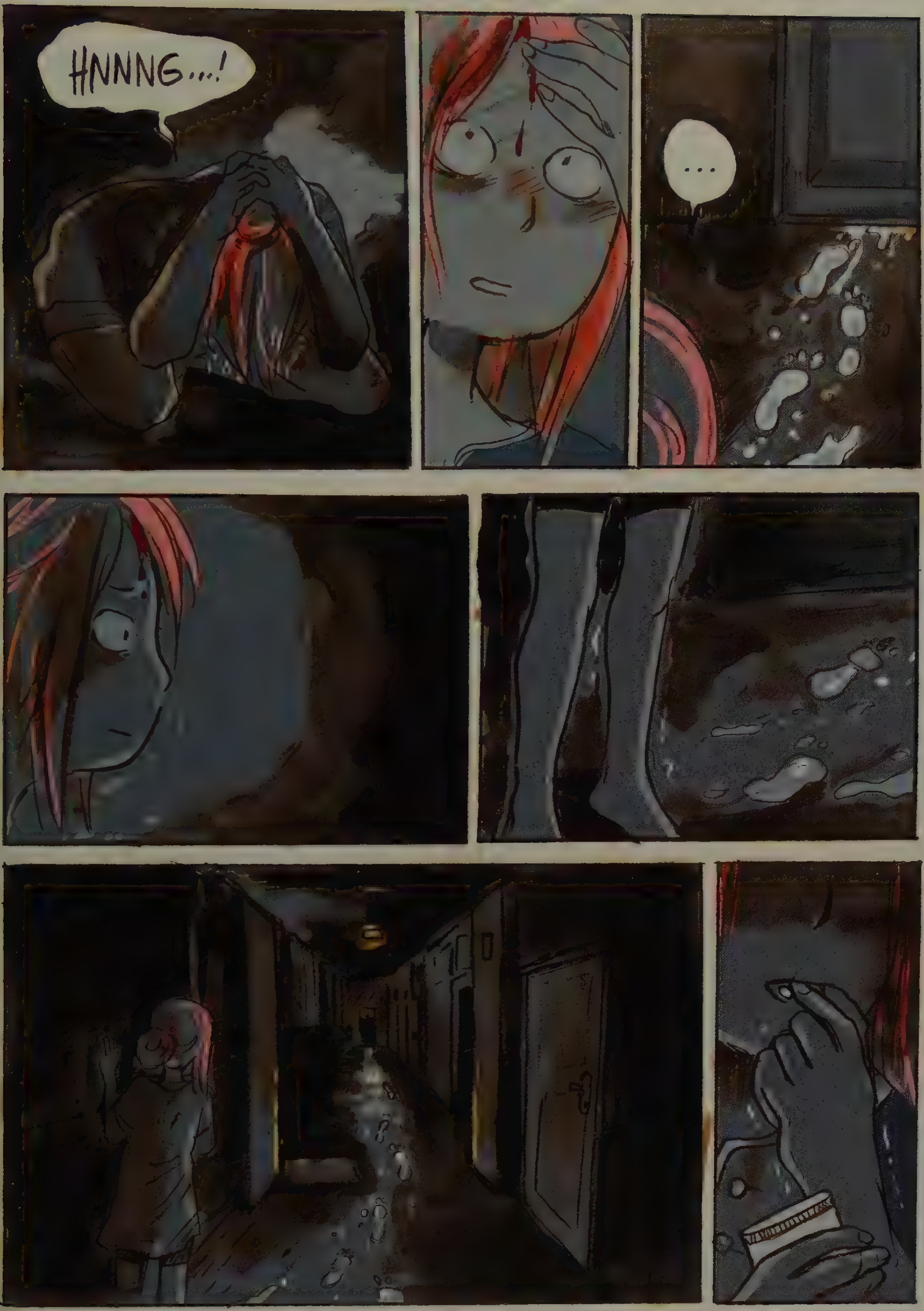

How are you feeling today?
Better . . .
. . . but I still can't sleep.
Here. I increased your dosage.
50 tablets
Eh5P
Thank you.
Eh
How about something sweet next?
Strawberries?

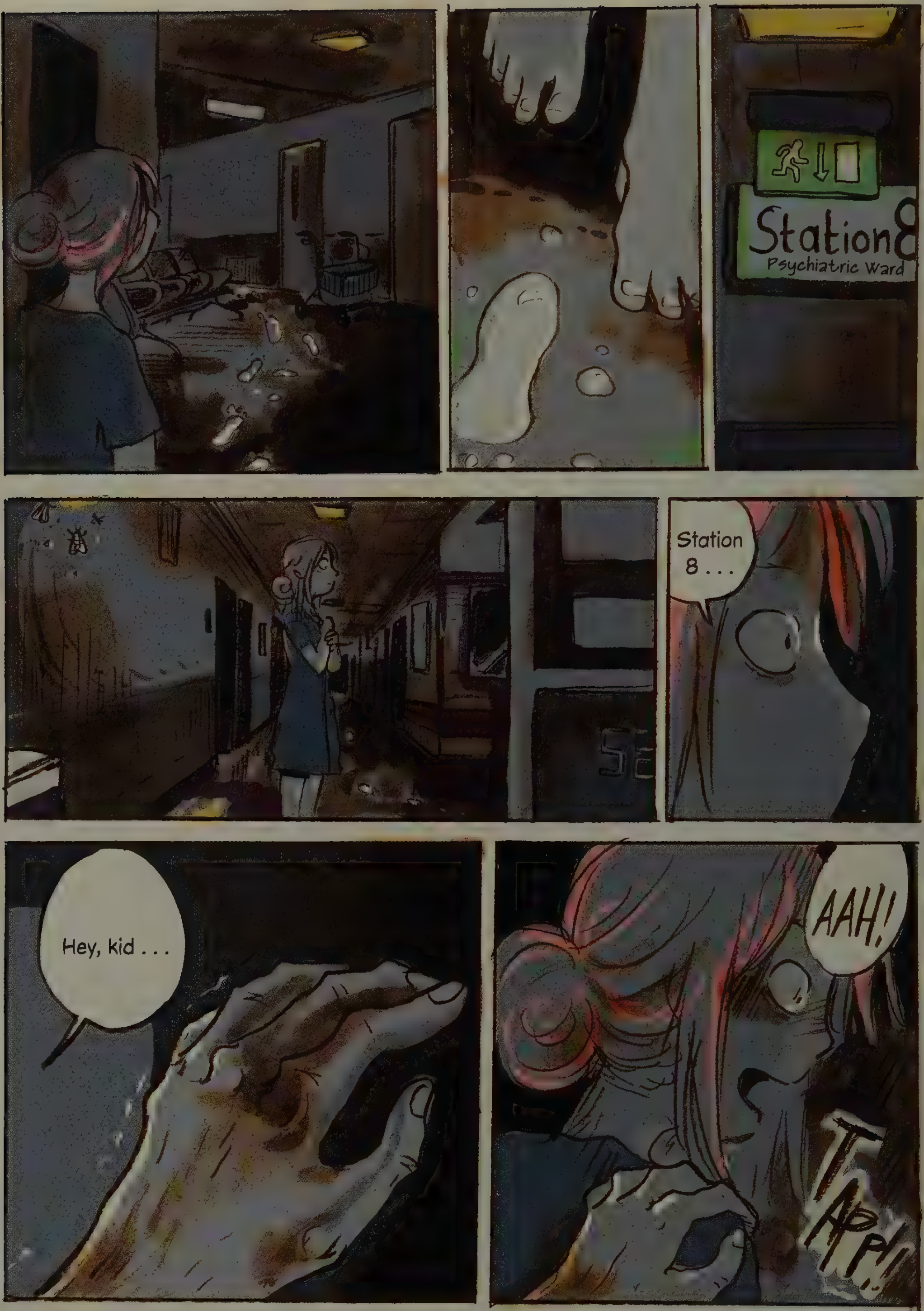

I thought no one grew them anymore.
Dig in!
So good.
I have something else for you.
NEW PINK million COLORS
NEW PINK million COLORS
It wasn't easy to find.
Hair dye?
That's . . . nice, but I don't need it.
Just give it a try.
Hah. I'd . . . rather not . . .
We could use a splash of color in here.

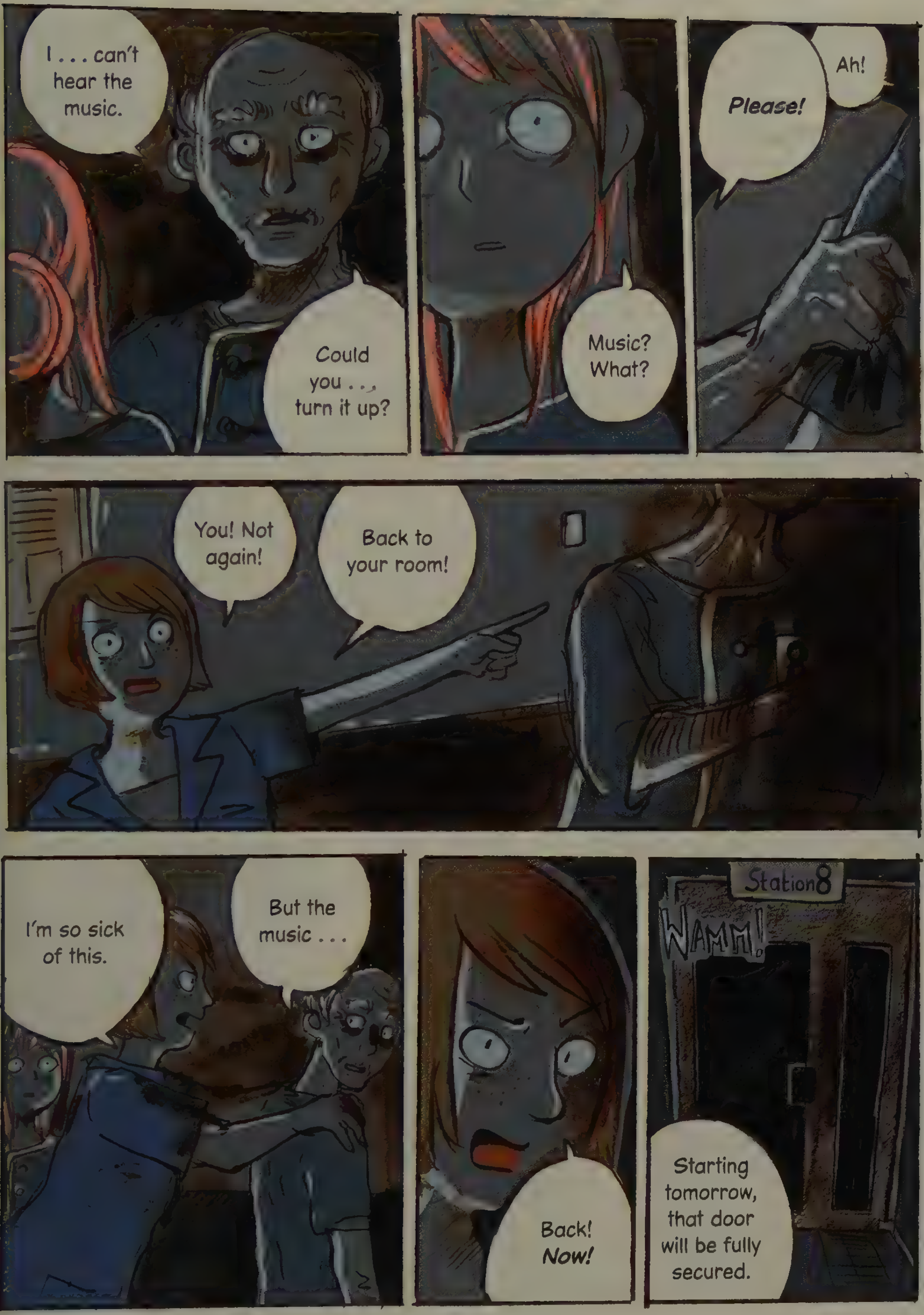

Mm-hmm.

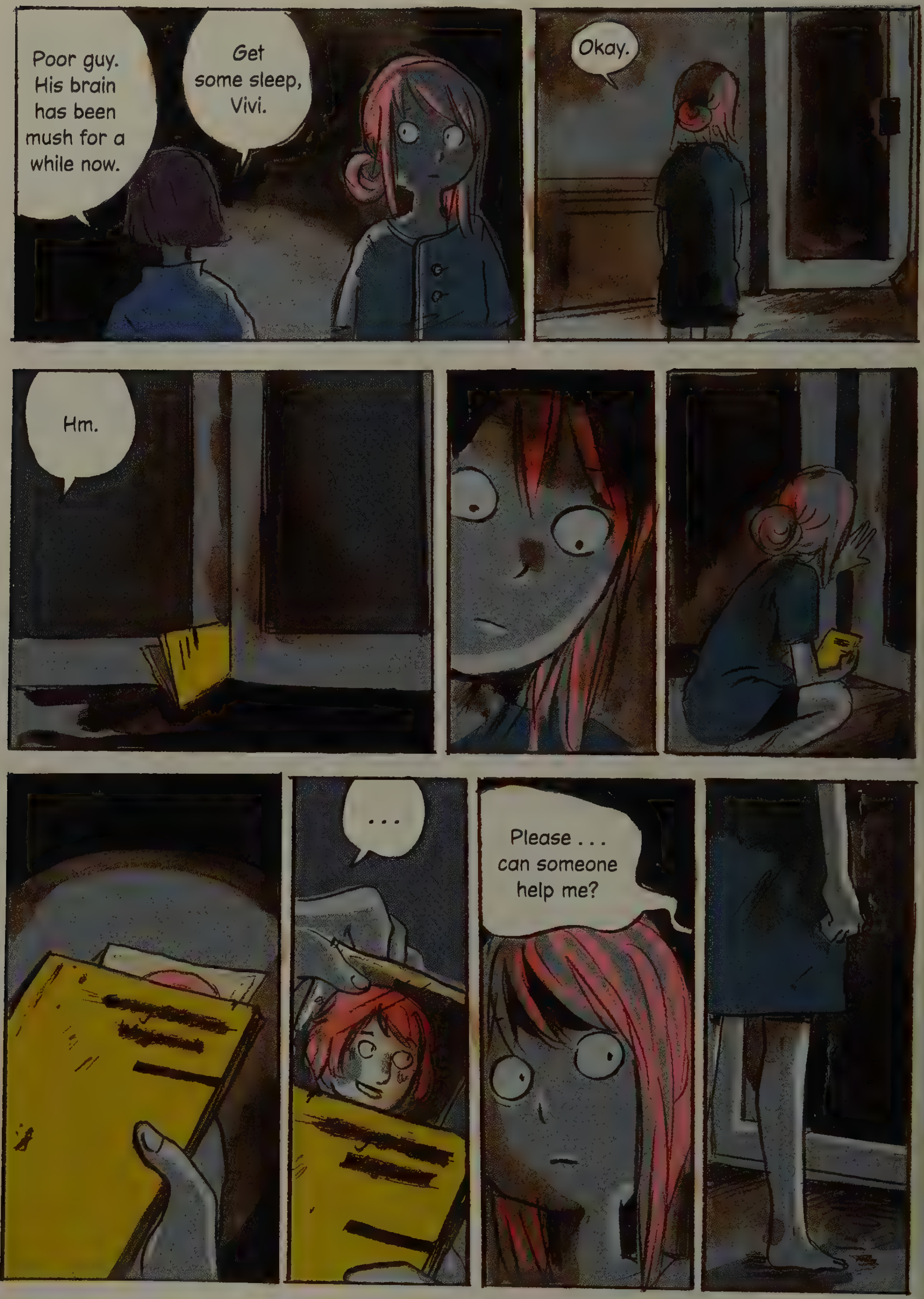

aaah ...
aaah...
!?
aaaah...
aaah...
Who . . . ?
aaah...
I am more stone than flesh and bone . . .
aaaah...
Whisper
I've seen life, I've seen death . . .
I never sleep, I keep good watch . . .
aaah...
For ghosts who'd steal my breath . . .
aaah...
aaah...

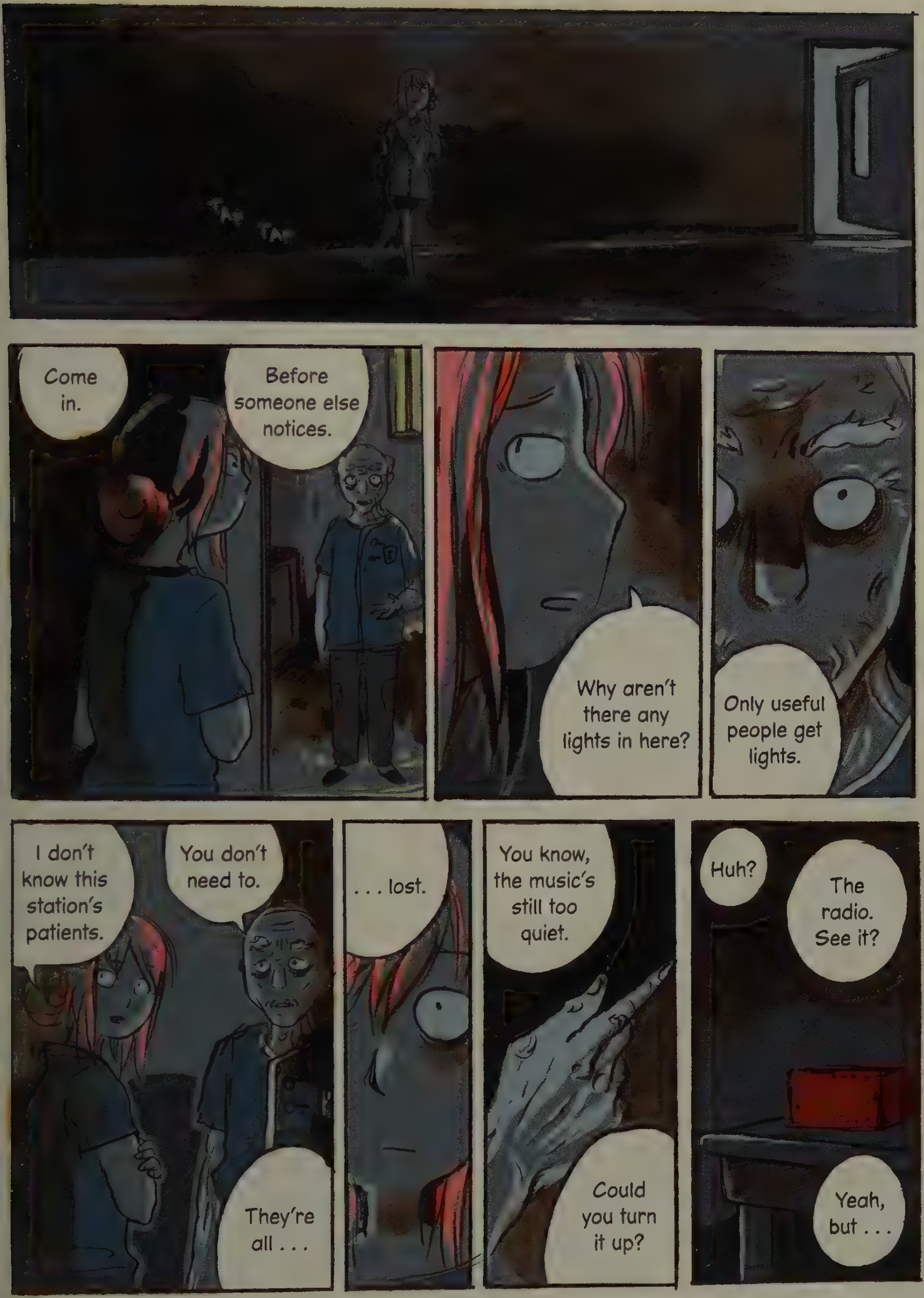

For ghosts who'd steal my breath.
aaah...
DONK!!!
WAMM!!
!!!!

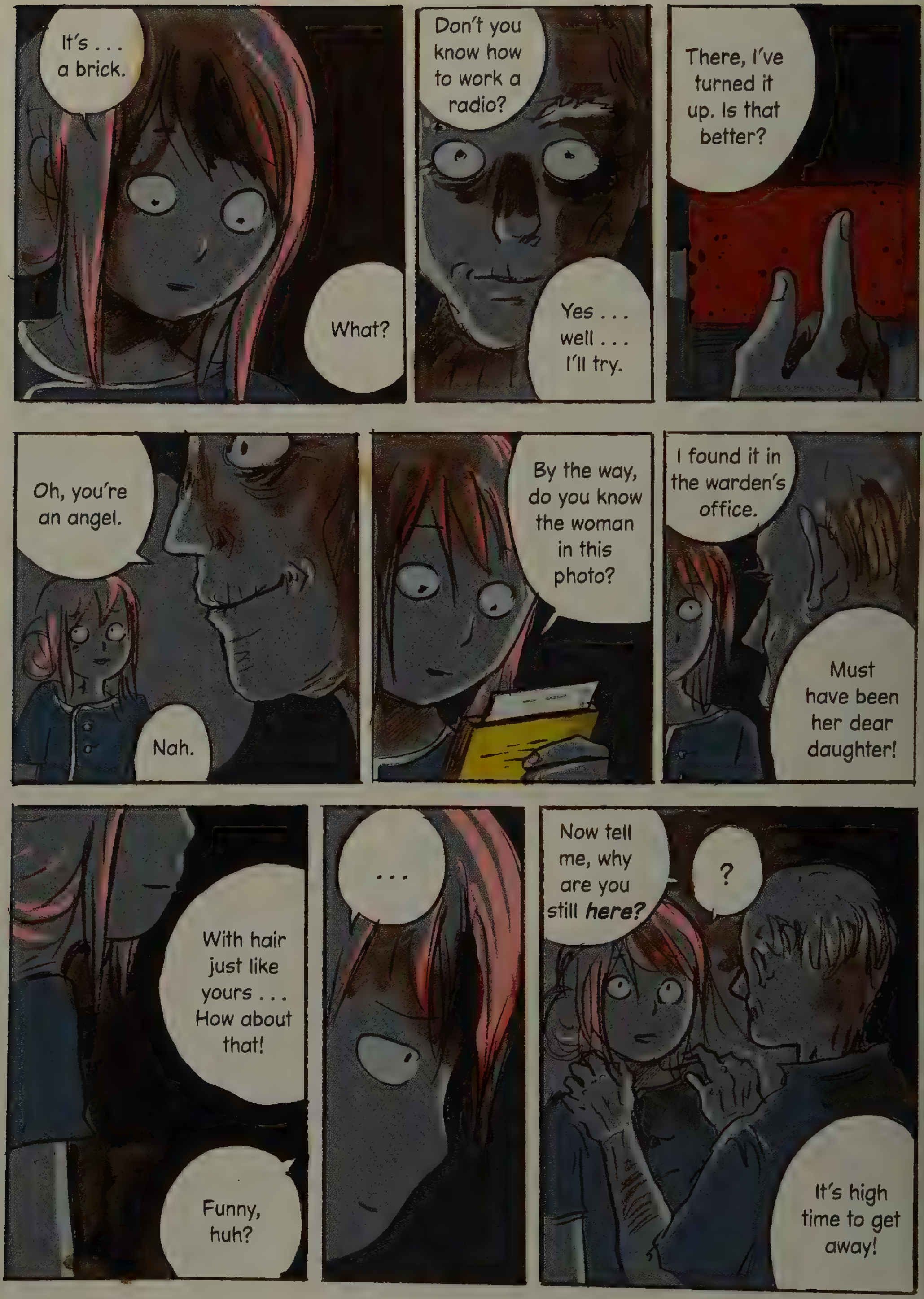

HNNNG...!
...

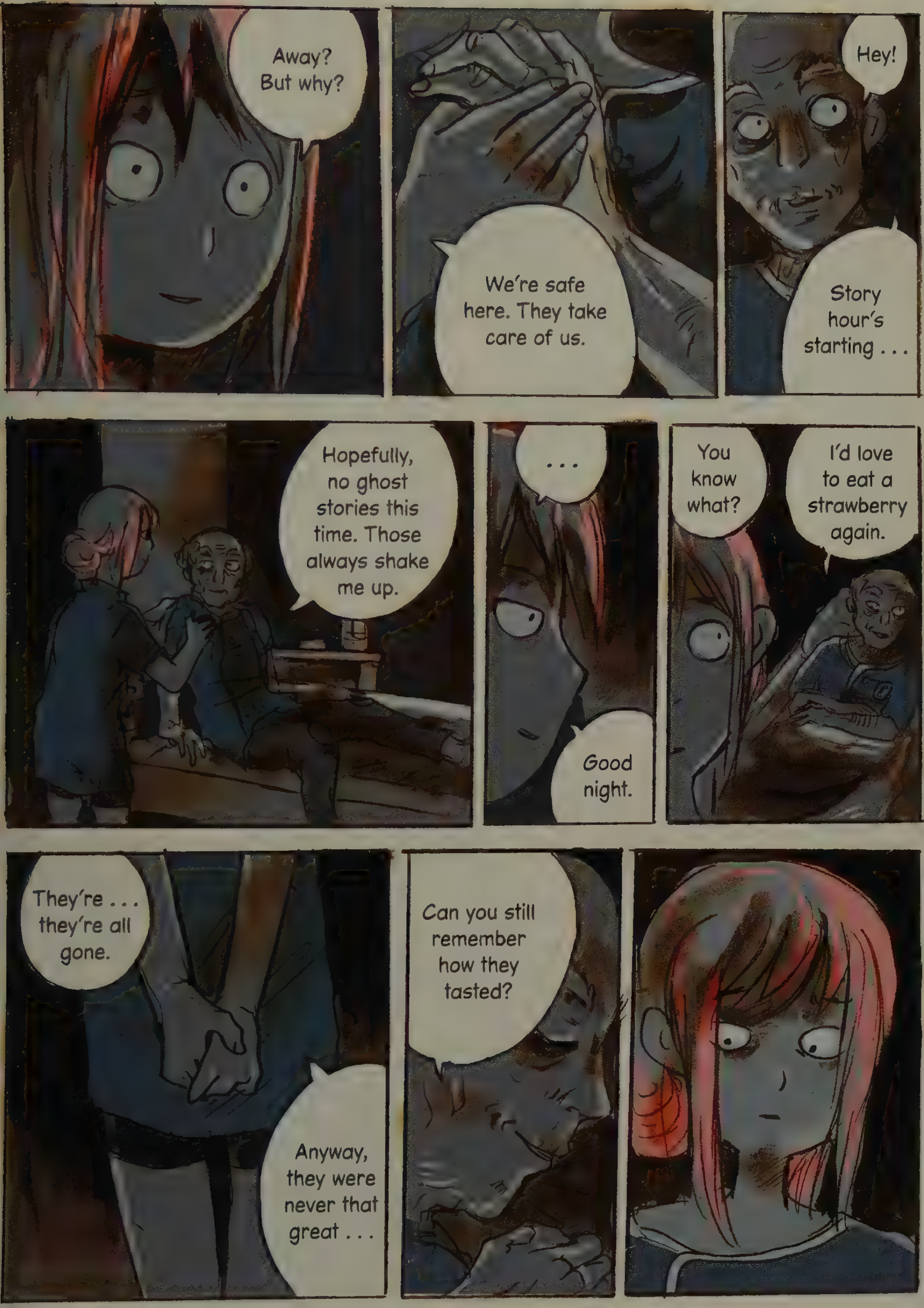

Station 8
Psychiatric Ward
Station 8 . . .
Hey, kid . . .
AAH!
TAPP!

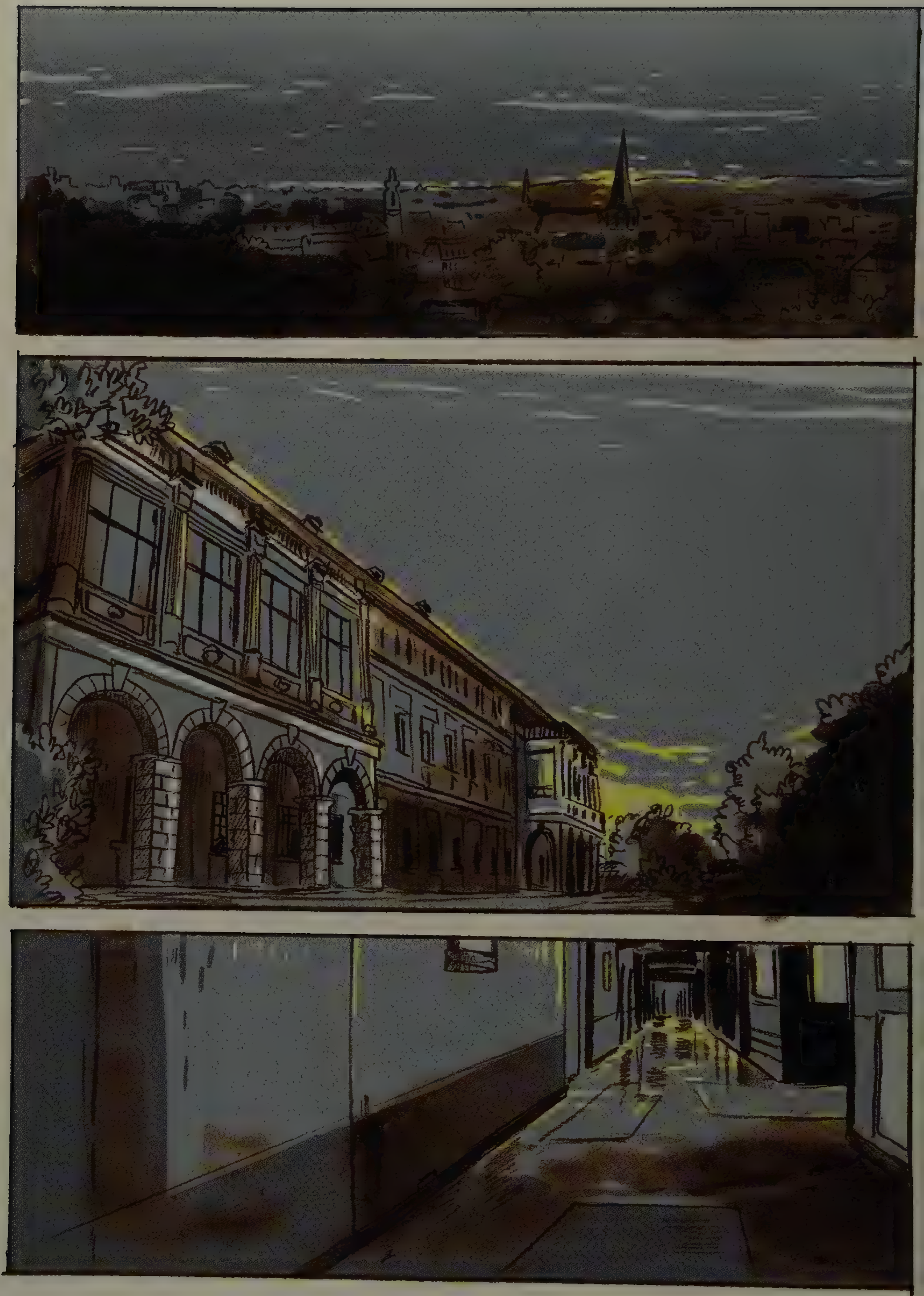

I . . . can't hear the music.
Could you . . . turn it up?
Music? What?
Please!
Ah!
You! Not again!
Back to your room!
I'm so sick of this.
But the music . . .
Back! *Now!*
Station8
WAMM!
Starting tomorrow, that door will be fully secured.

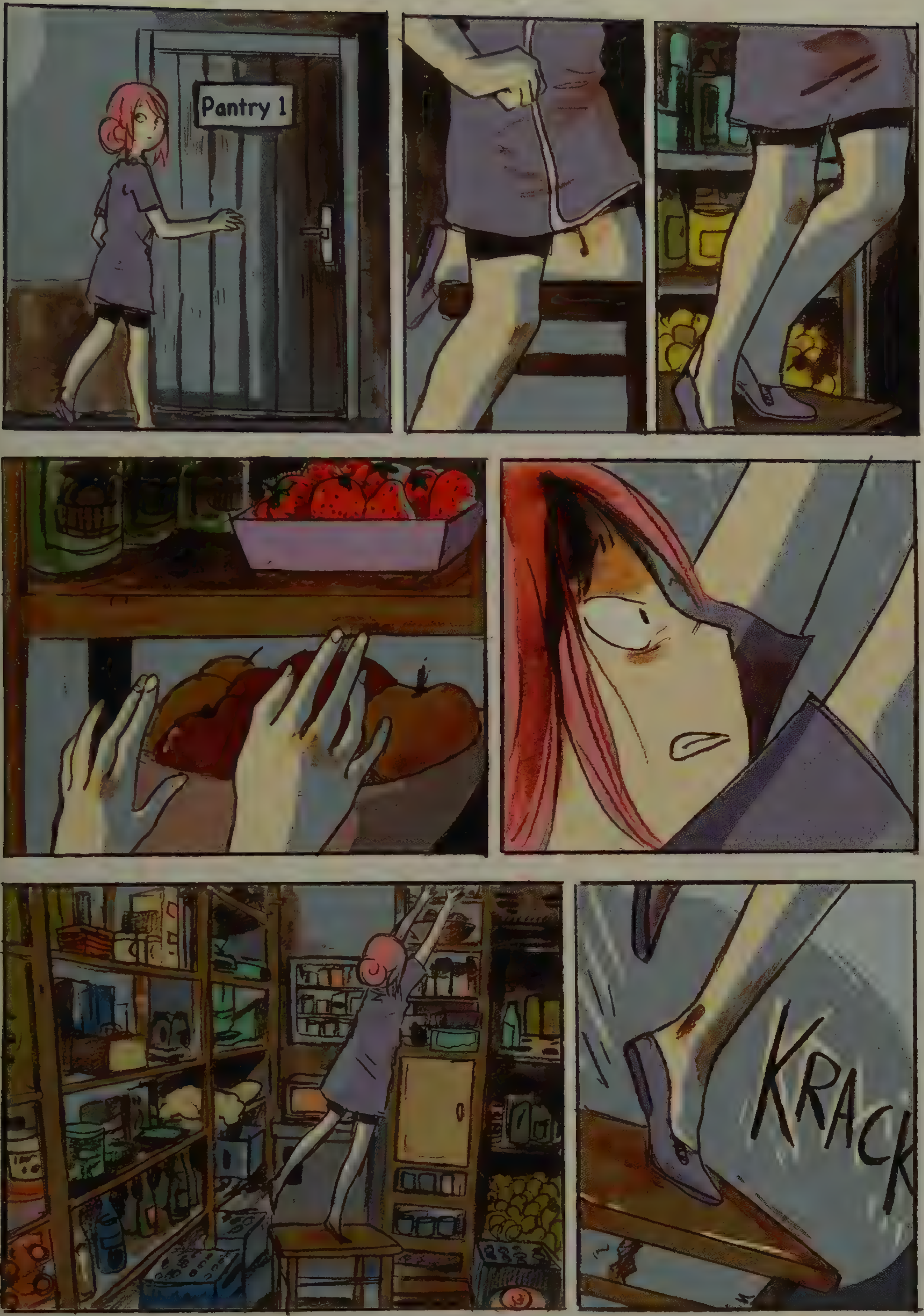

Poor guy. His brain has been mush for a while now.
Get some sleep, Vivi.
Okay.
Hm.
. . .
Please . . . can someone help me?

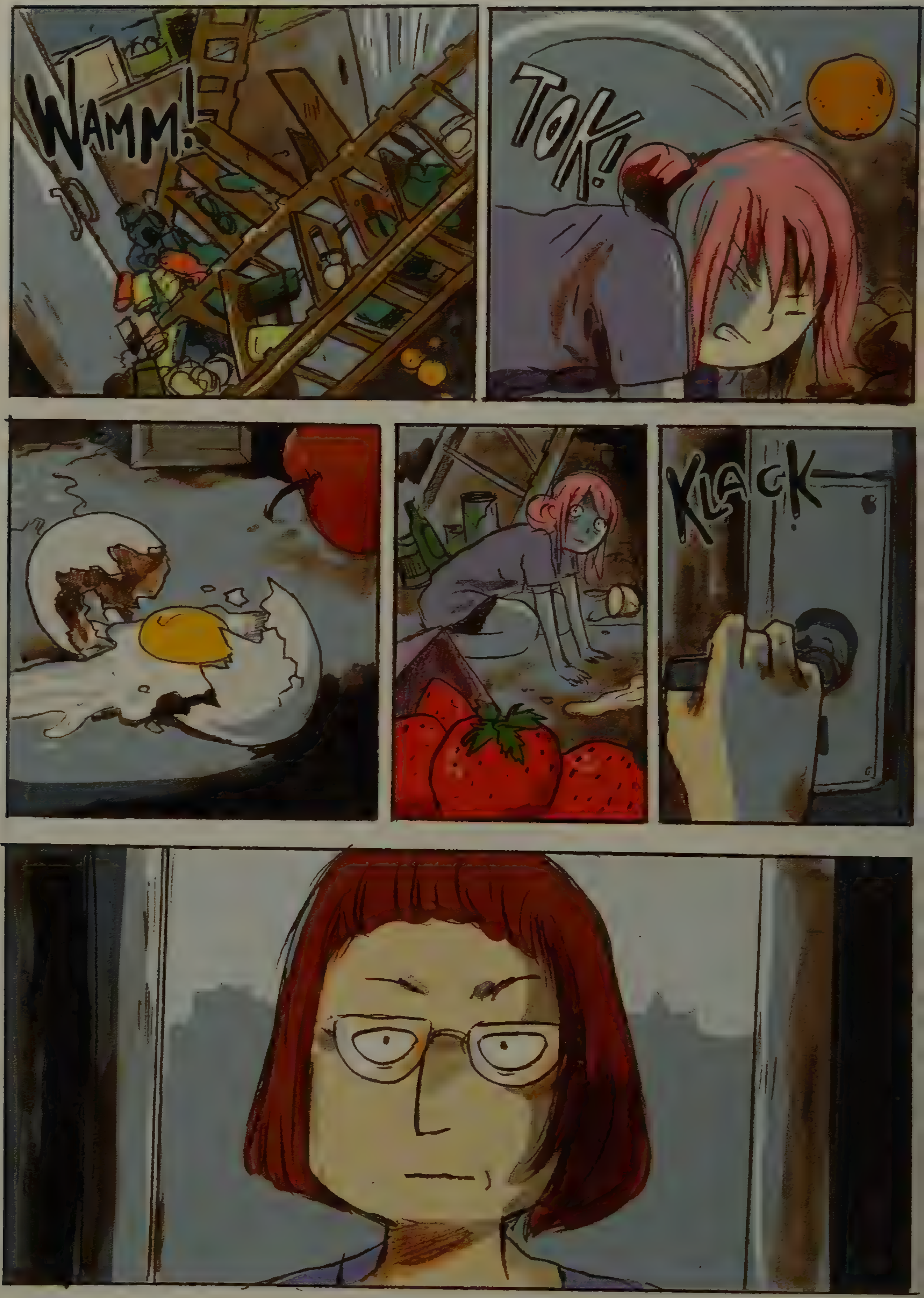

TAP TAP
Come in.
Before someone else notices.
Why aren't there any lights in here?
Only useful people get lights.
I don't know this station's patients.
You don't need to.
They're all . . .
. . . lost.
You know, the music's still too quiet.
Could you turn it up?
Huh?
The radio. See it?
Yeah, but . . .

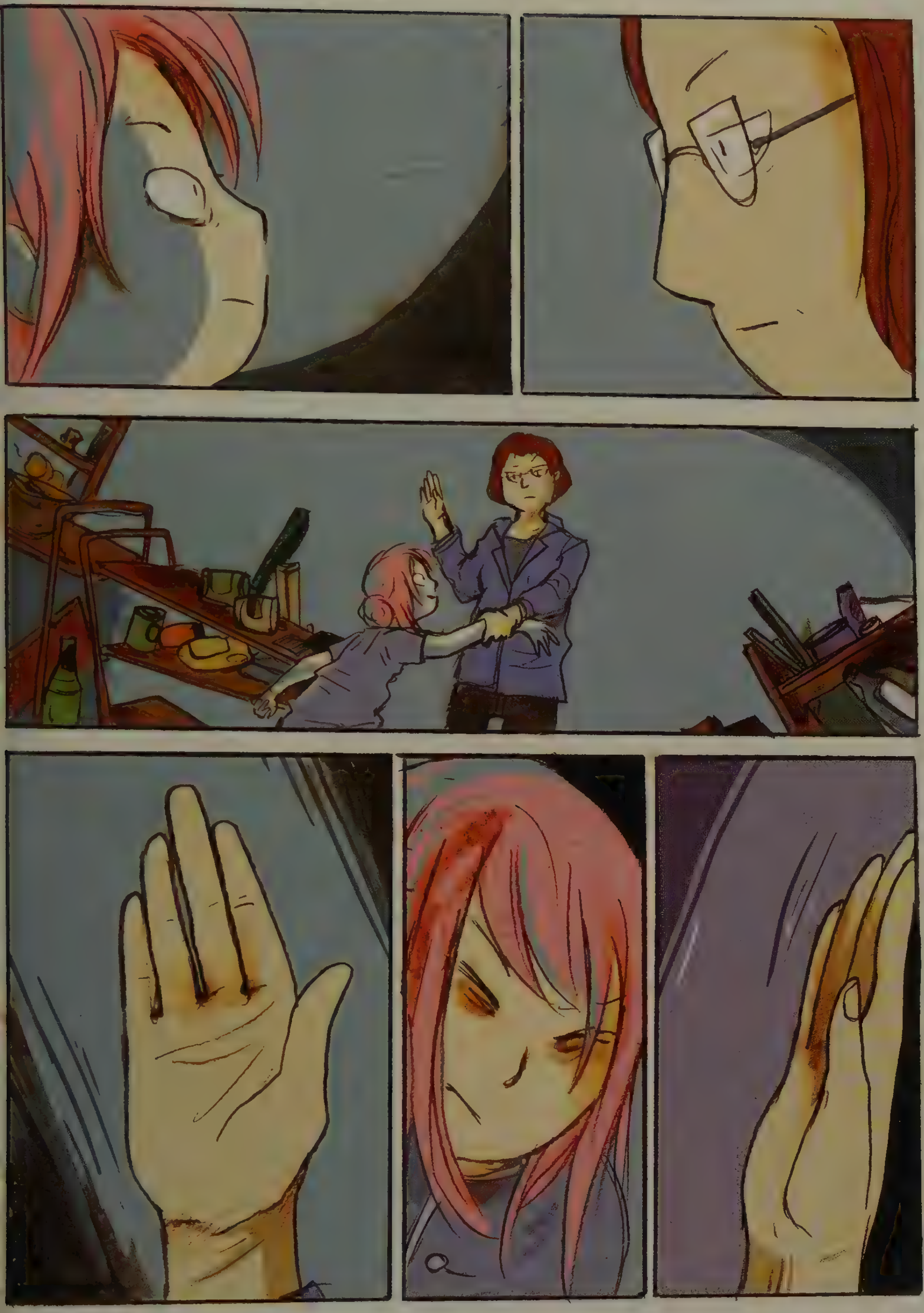

It's . . . a brick.
What?
Don't you know how to work a radio?
Yes . . . well . . . I'll try.
There, I've turned it up. Is that better?
Oh, you're an angel.
Nah.
By the way, do you know the woman in this photo?
I found it in the warden's office.
Must have been her dear daughter!
With hair just like yours . . . How about that!
Funny, huh?
. . .
Now tell me, why are you still *here?*
?
It's high time to get away!

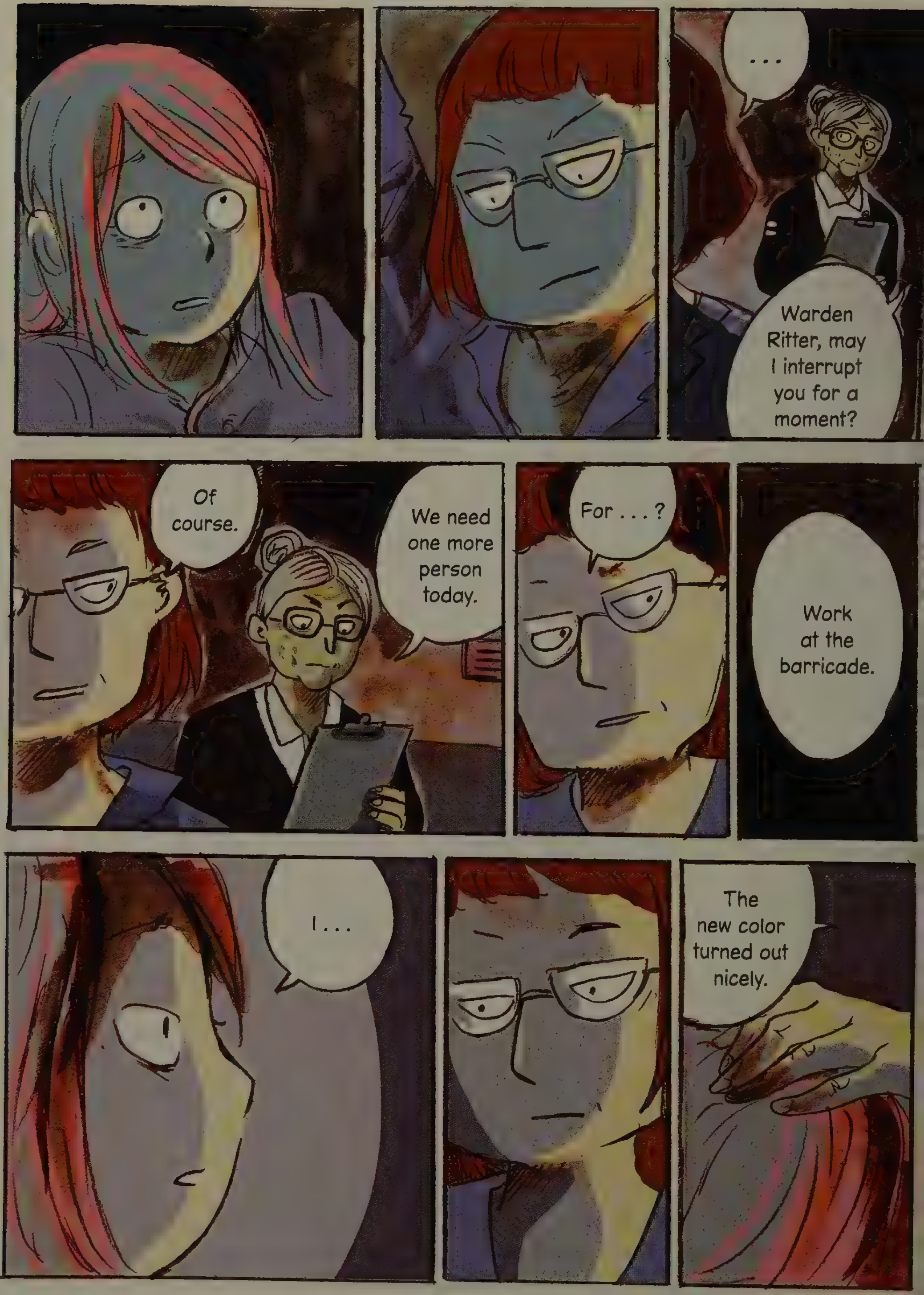

Away? But why?
We're safe here. They take care of us.
Hey!
Story hour's starting . . .
Hopefully, no ghost stories this time. Those always shake me up.
. . .
Good night.
You know what?
I'd love to eat a strawberry again.
They're . . . they're all gone.
Anyway, they were never that great . . .
Can you still remember how they tasted?

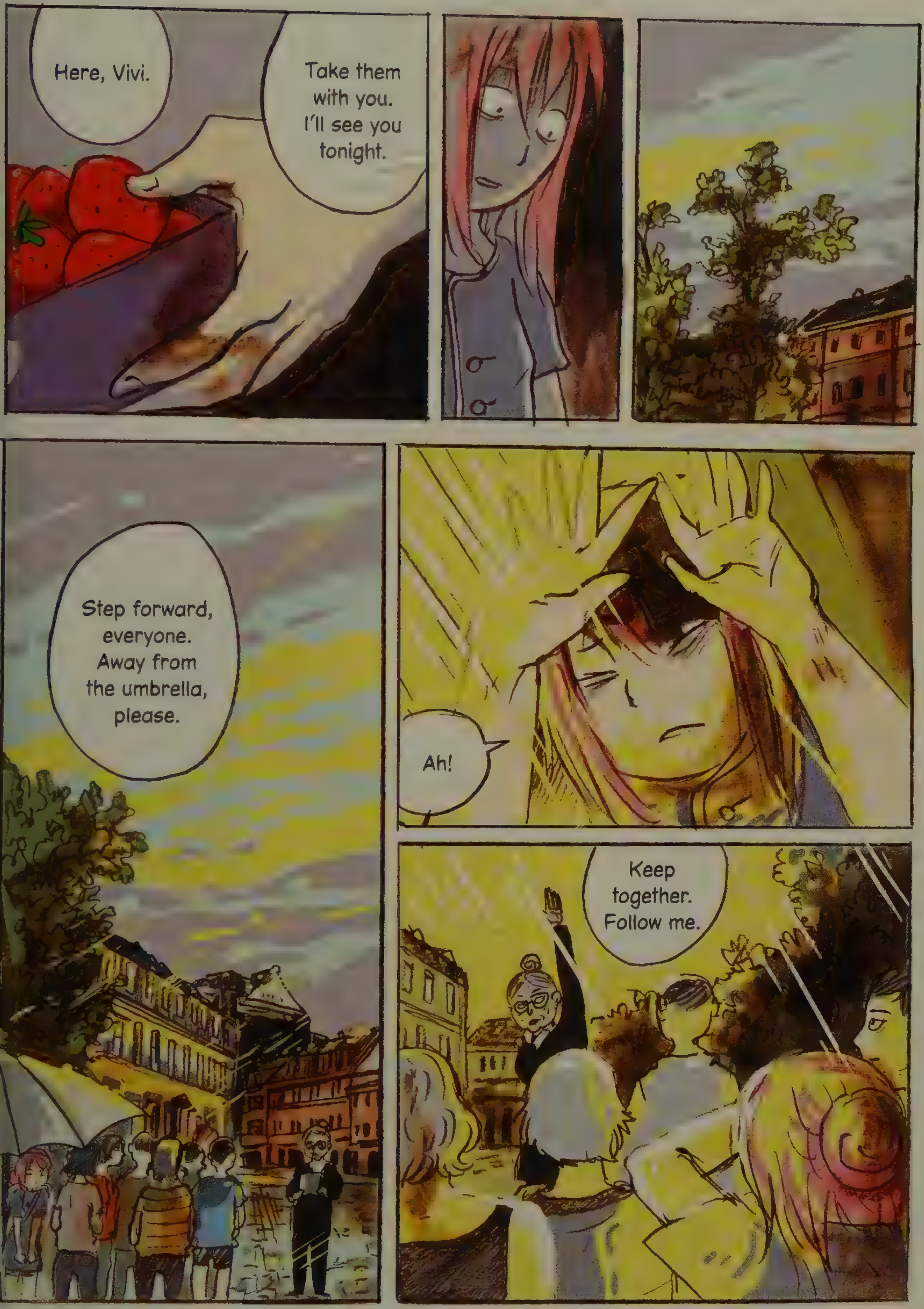


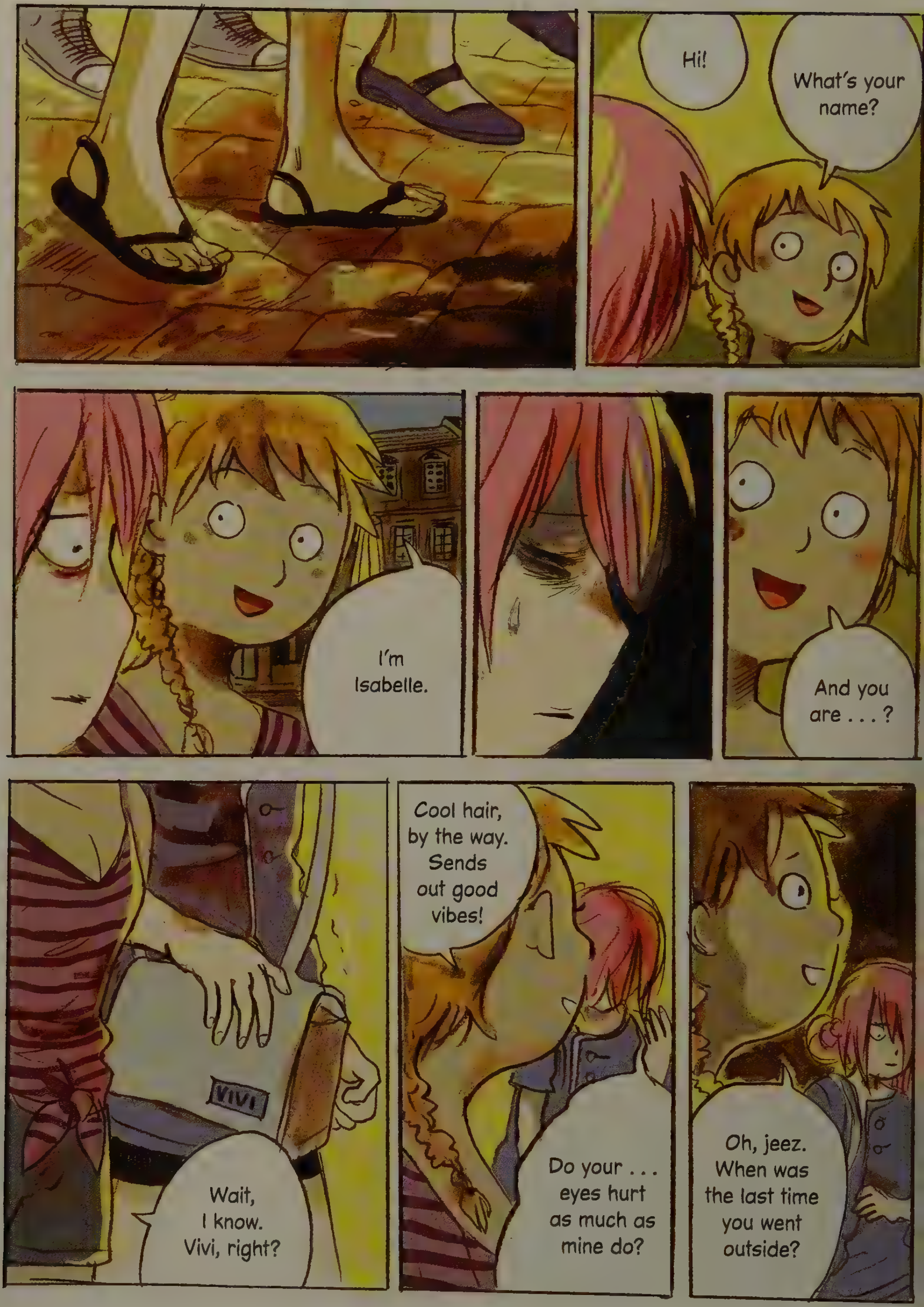

Pantry 1
KRACK

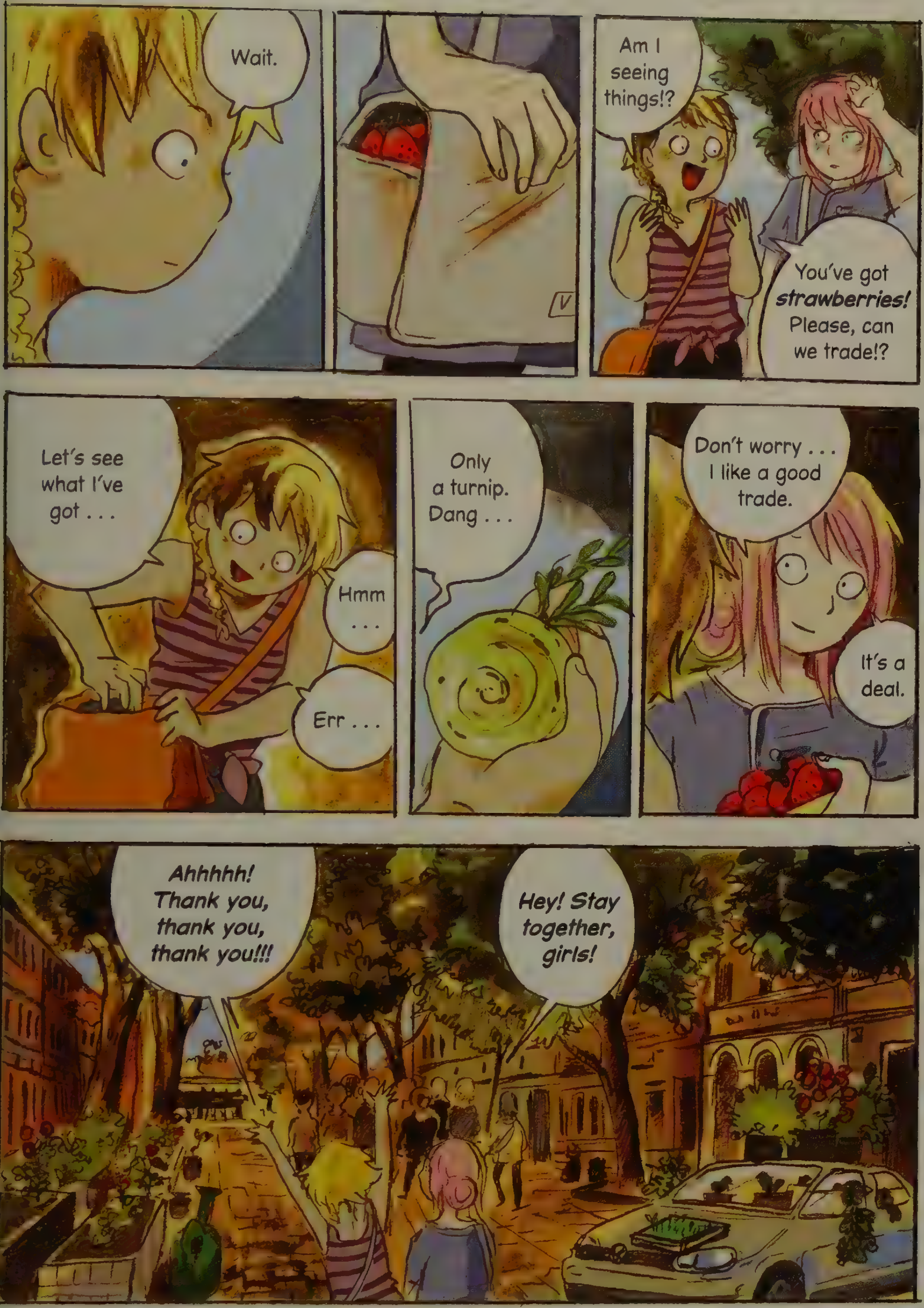

WAMM!
TOK!
KLACK

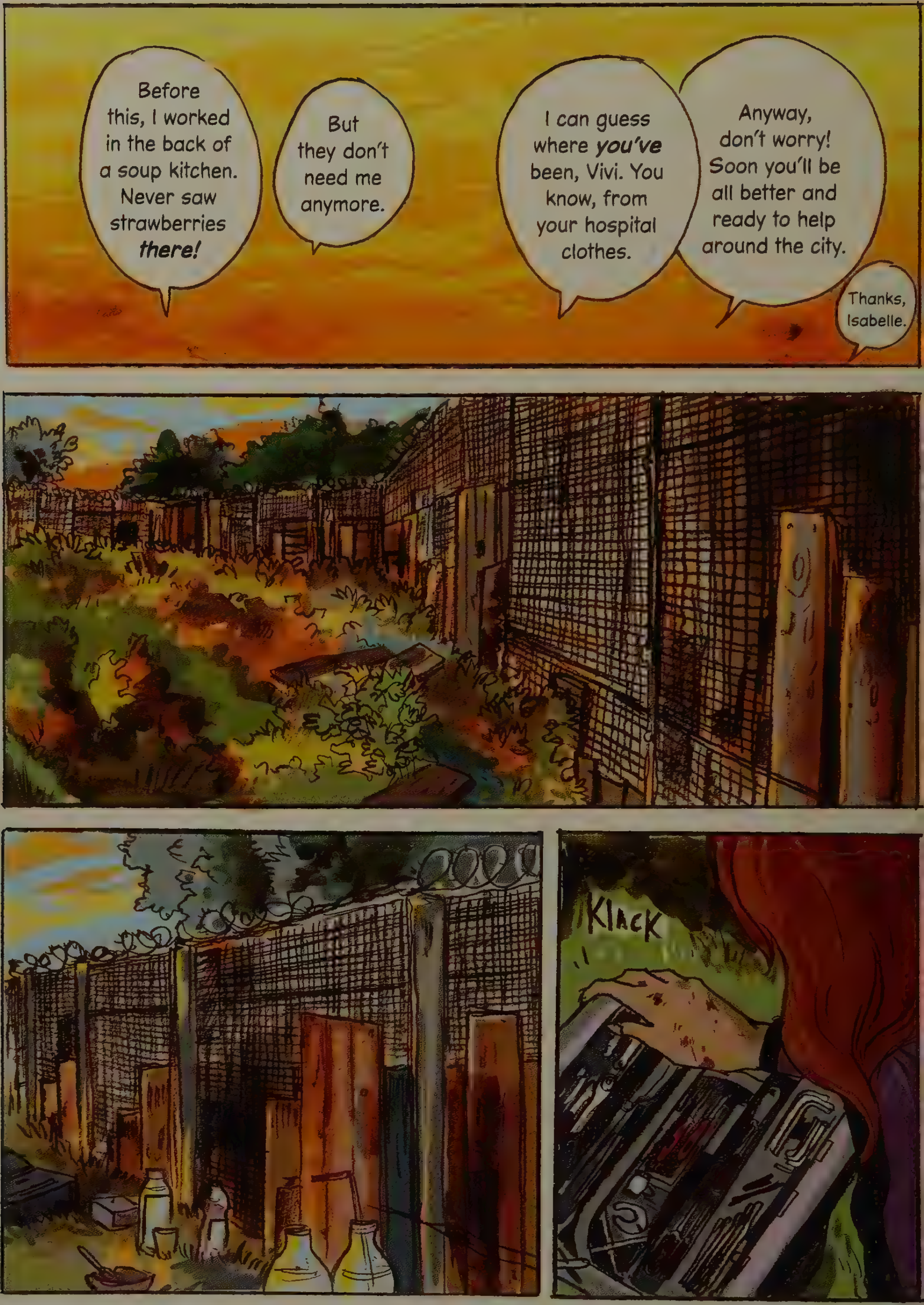


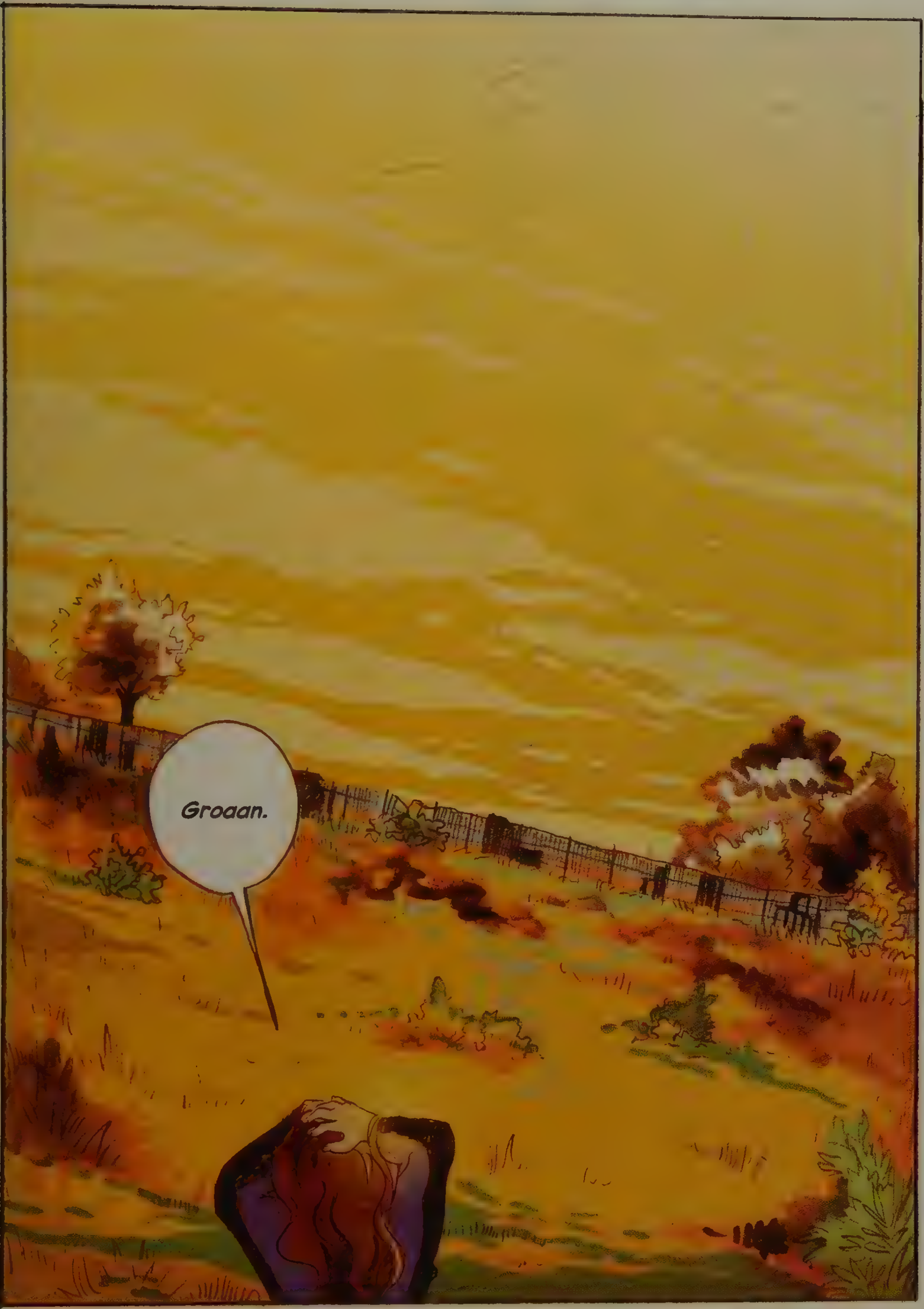

. . .
Warden Ritter, may I interrupt you for a moment?
Of course.
We need one more person today.
For . . . ?
Work at the barricade.
I . . .
The new color turned out nicely.

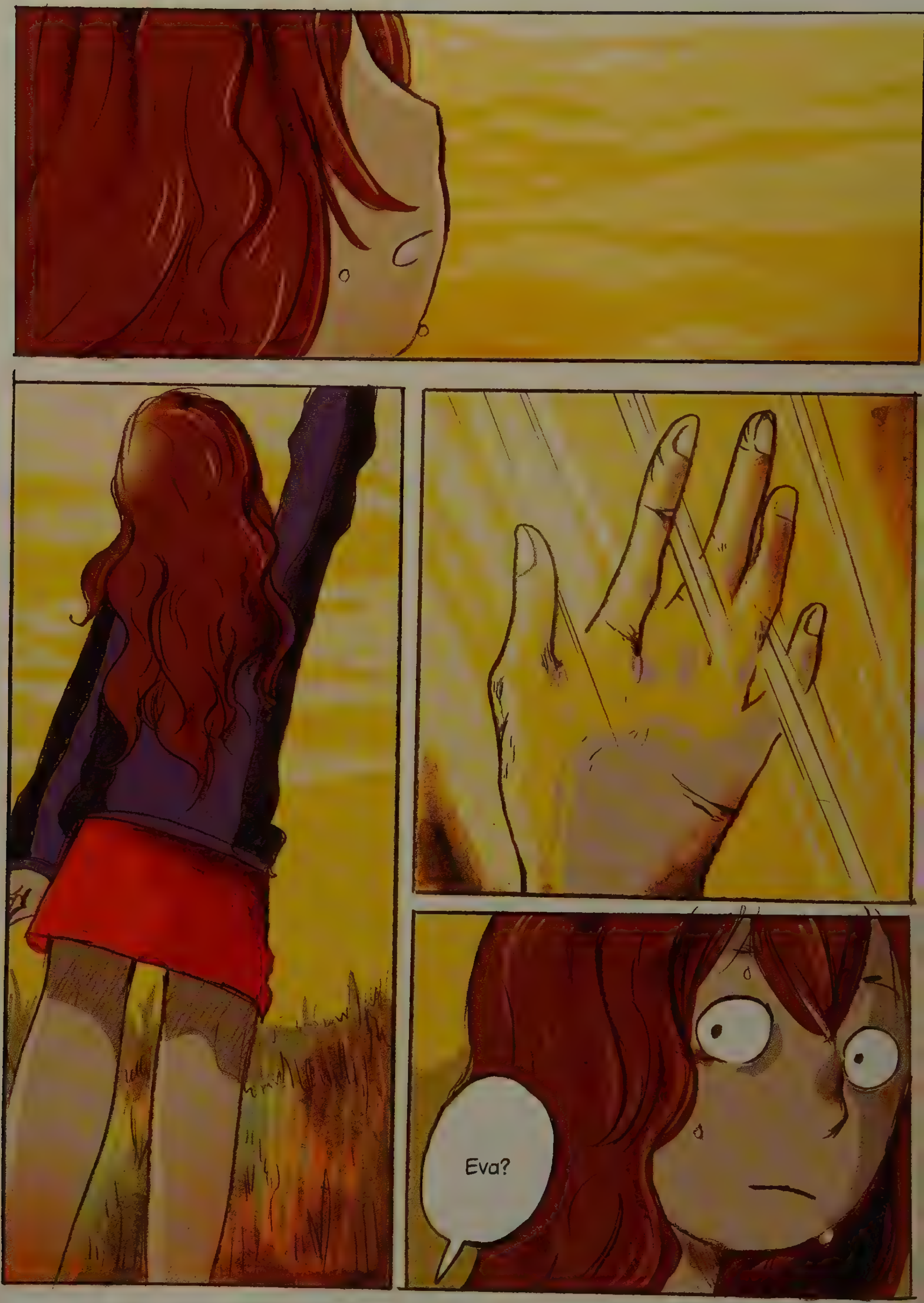

Here, Vivi.
Take them with you. I'll see you tonight.
Step forward, everyone. Away from the umbrella, please.
Ah!
Keep together. Follow me.

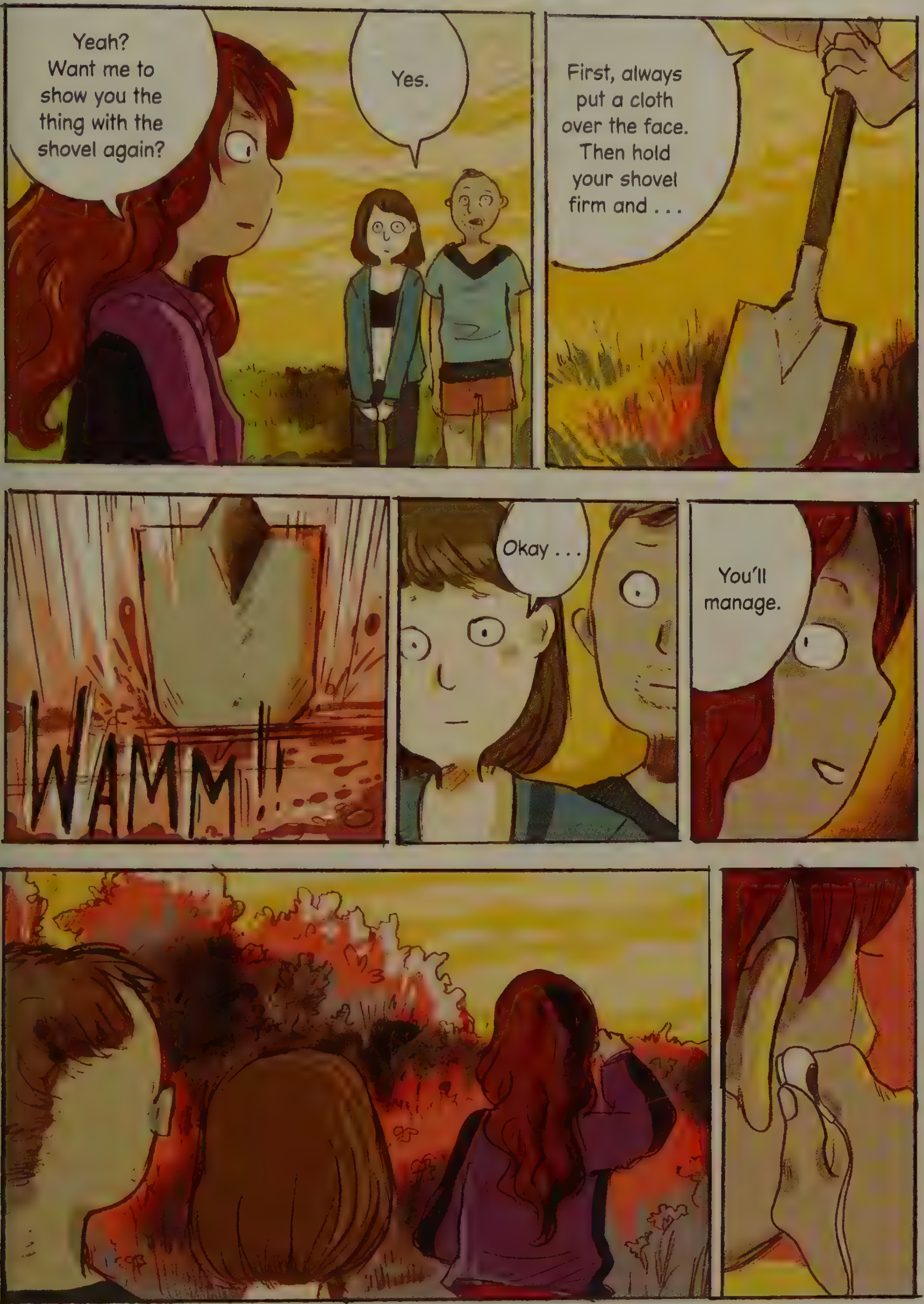

Hi!
What's your name?
I'm Isabelle.
And you are . . . ?
VIVI
Wait, I know. Vivi, right?
Cool hair, by the way. Sends out good vibes!
Do your . . . eyes hurt as much as mine do?
Oh, jeez. When was the last time you went outside?

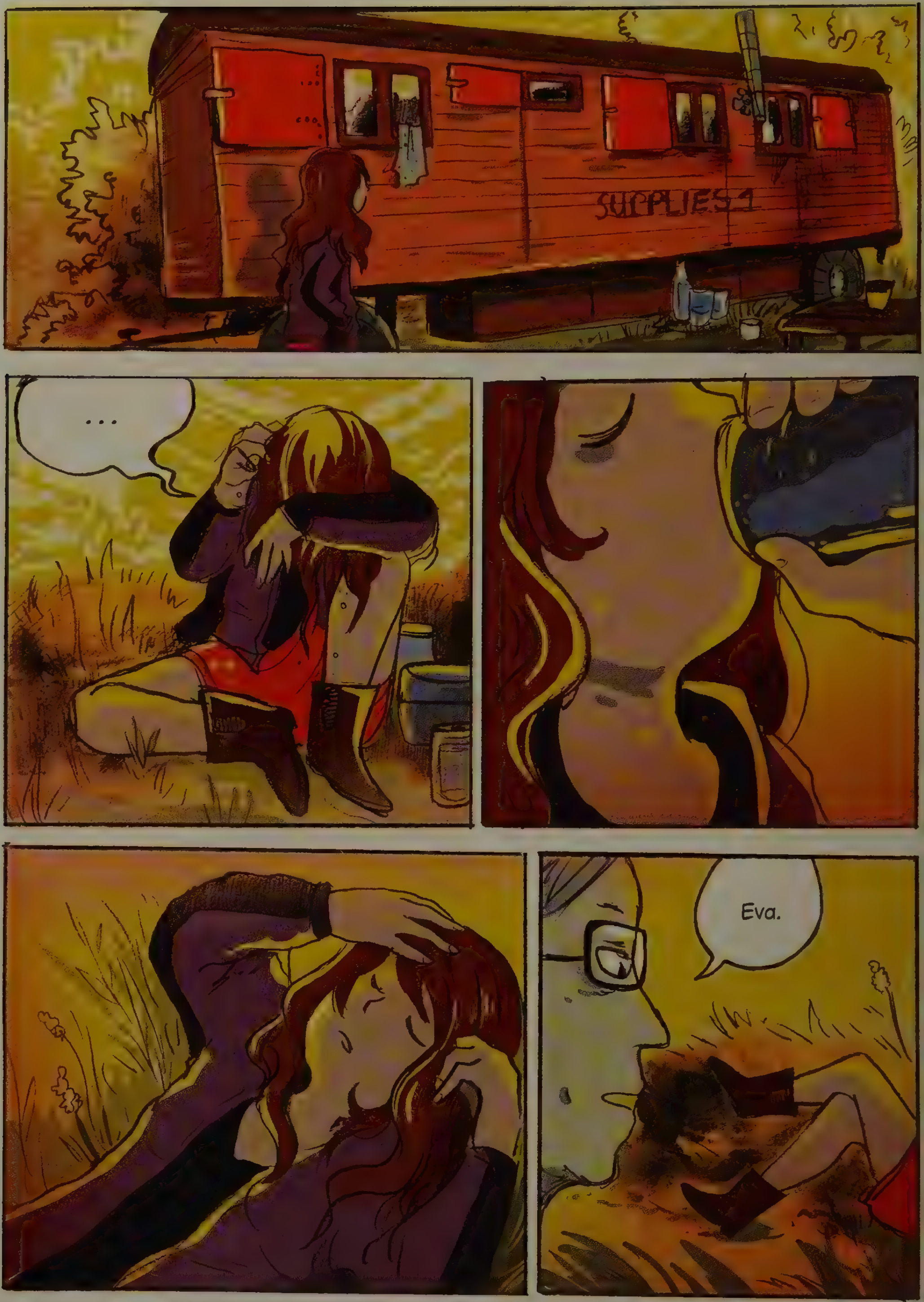

Wait.
Am I seeing things!?
You've got **strawberries!** Please, can we trade!?
Let's see what I've got . . .
Hmm . . .
Err . . .
Only a turnip. Dang . . .
Don't worry . . . I like a good trade.
It's a deal.
Ahhhhh! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!
Hey! Stay together, girls!

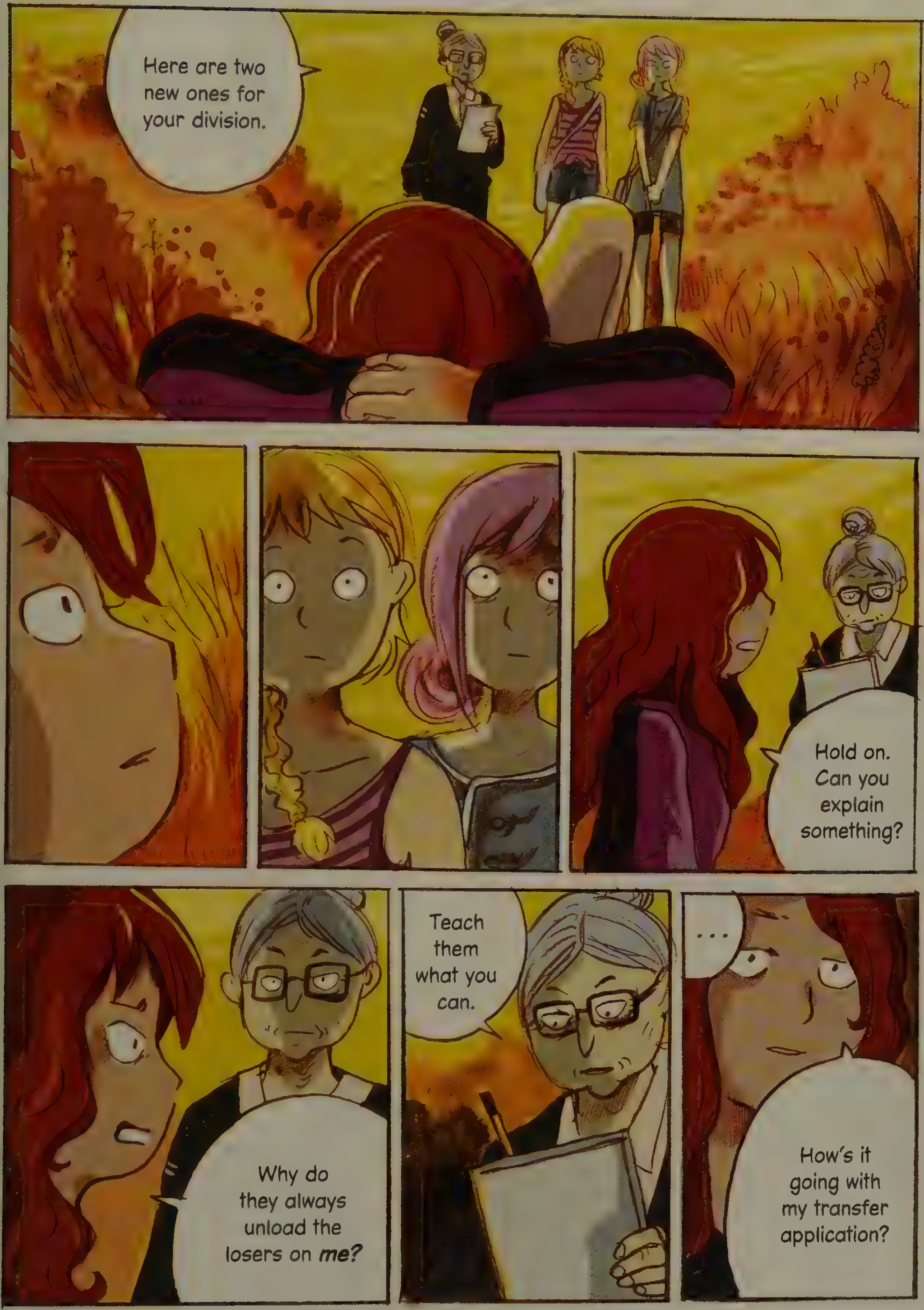

Before this, I worked in the back of a soup kitchen. Never saw strawberries *there!*
But they don't need me anymore.
I can guess where *you've* been, Vivi. You know, from your hospital clothes.
Anyway, don't worry! Soon you'll be all better and ready to help around the city.
Thanks, Isabelle.
KLACK

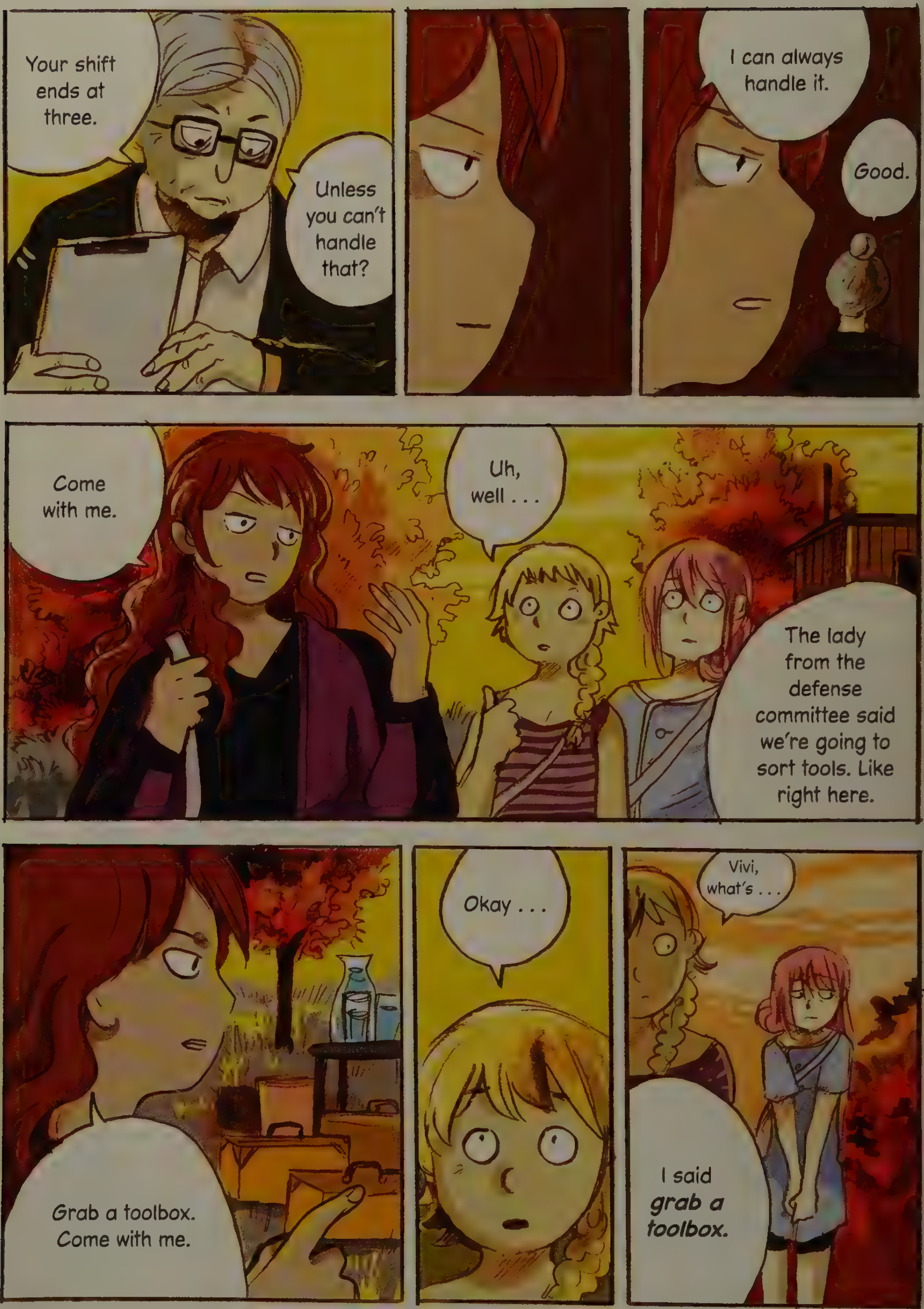

Groaan.

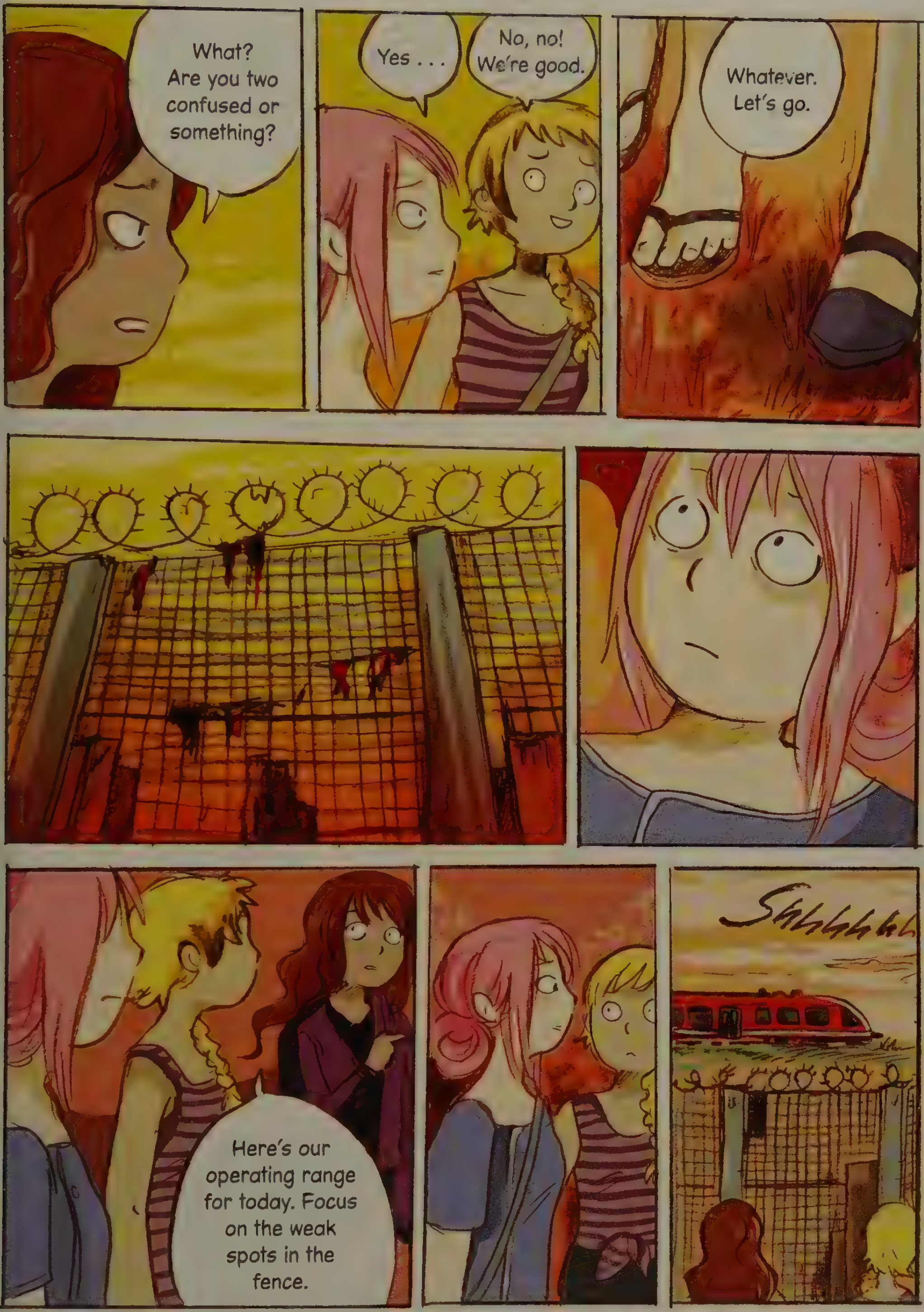

Eva?

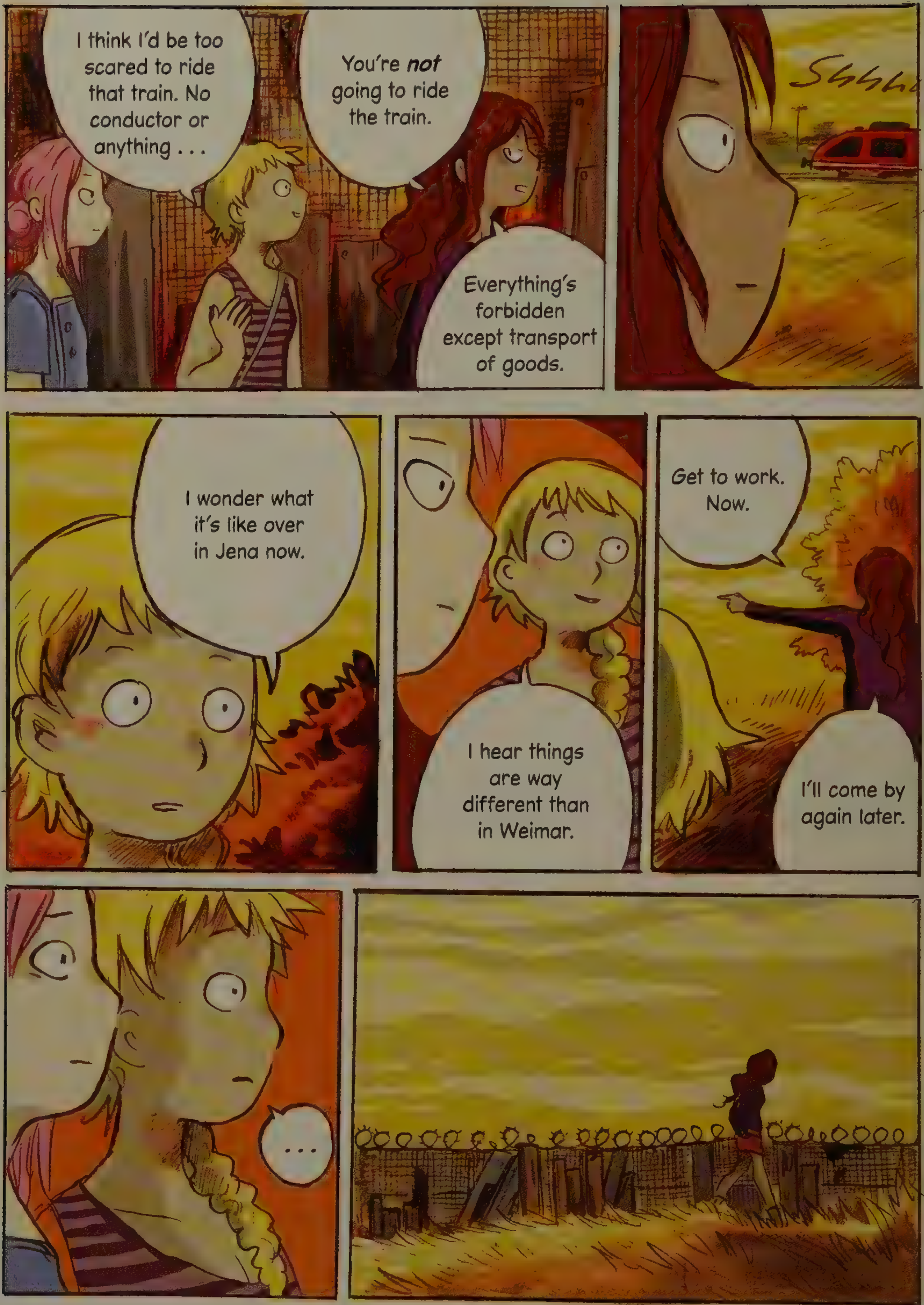

Yeah? Want me to show you the thing with the shovel again?
Yes.
First, always put a cloth over the face. Then hold your shovel firm and . . .
WAMM!!
Okay . . .
You'll manage.

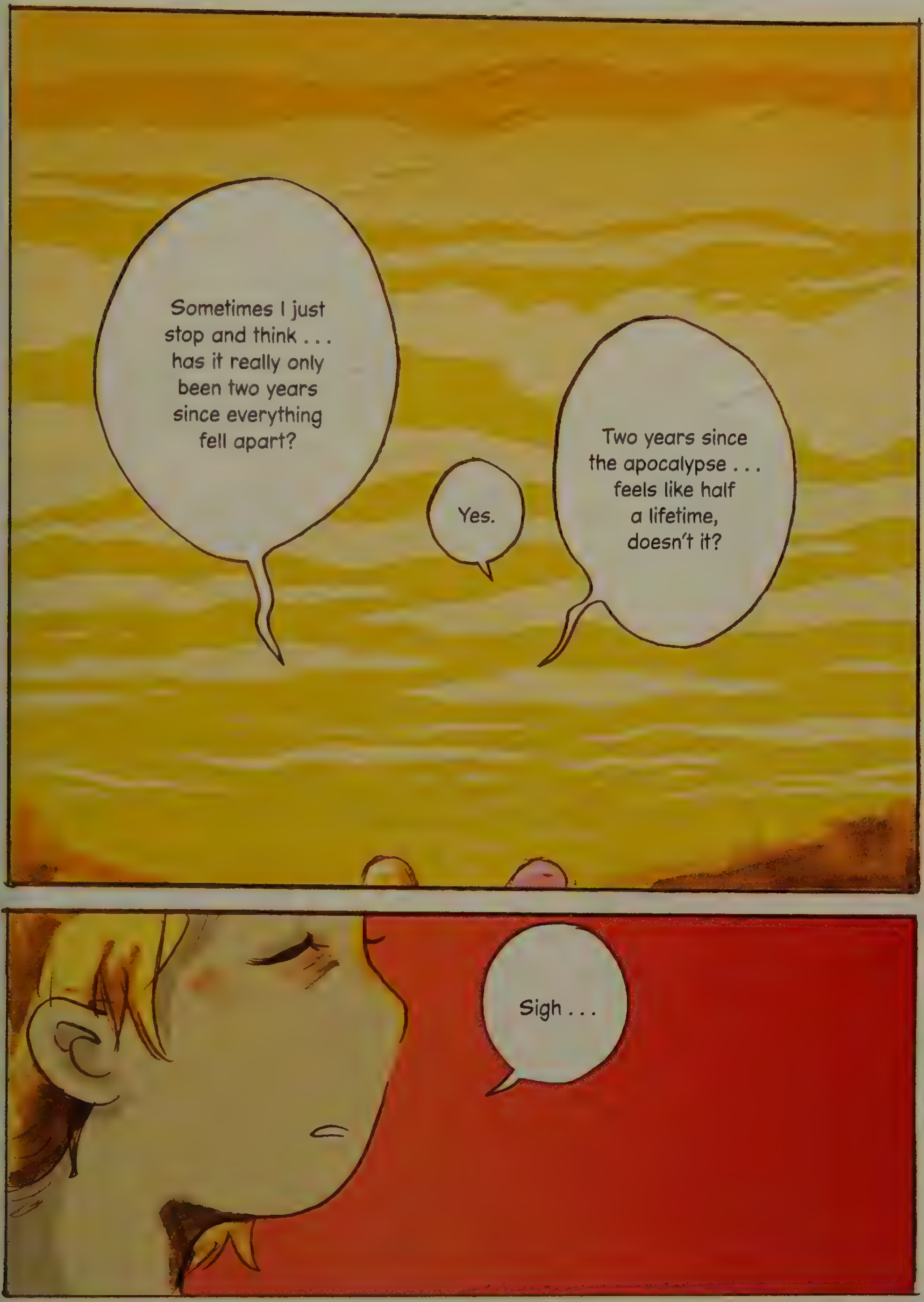

SUPPLIES 1
...
Eva.

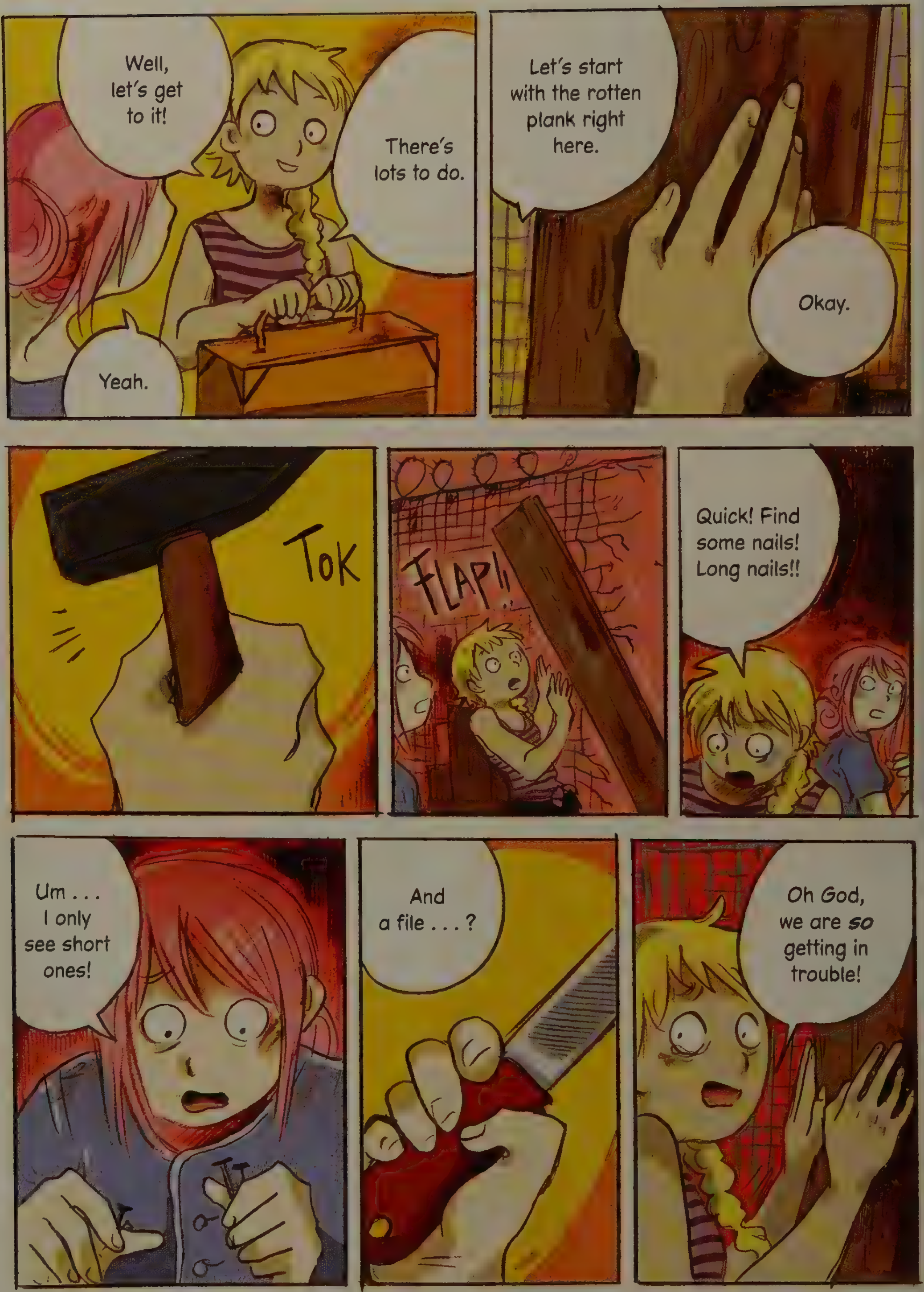

Here are two new ones for your division.
Hold on. Can you explain something?
Why do they always unload the losers on *me?*
Teach them what you can.
...
How's it going with my transfer application?

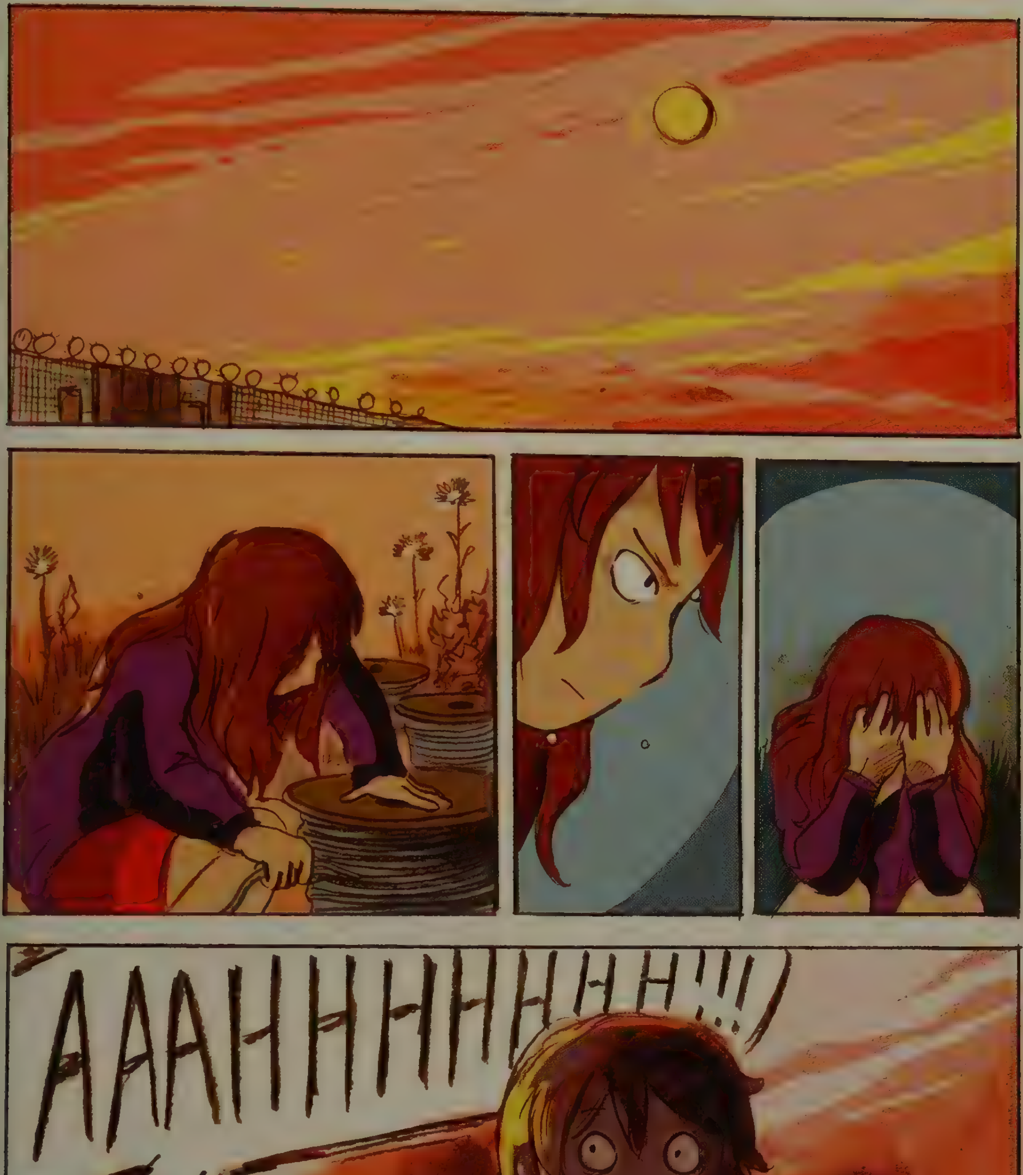

Your shift ends at three.
Unless you can't handle that?
I can always handle it.
Good.
Come with me.
Uh, well . . .
The lady from the defense committee said we're going to sort tools. Like right here.
Grab a toolbox. Come with me.
Okay . . .
Vivi, what's . . .
I said *grab a toolbox.*

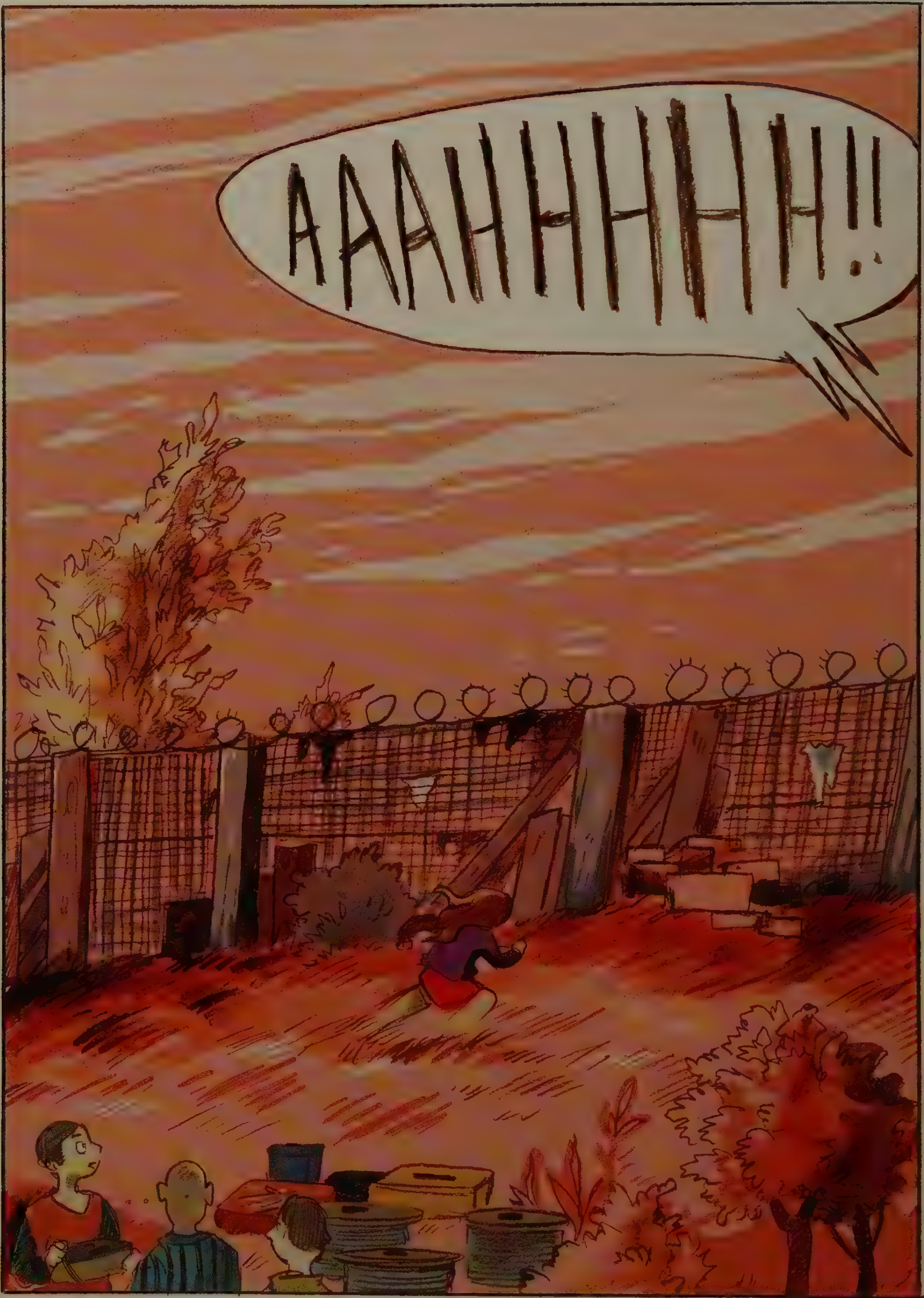

What? Are you two confused or something?
Yes . . .
No, no! We're good.
Whatever. Let's go.
Here's our operating range for today. Focus on the weak spots in the fence.
Shhhhhh

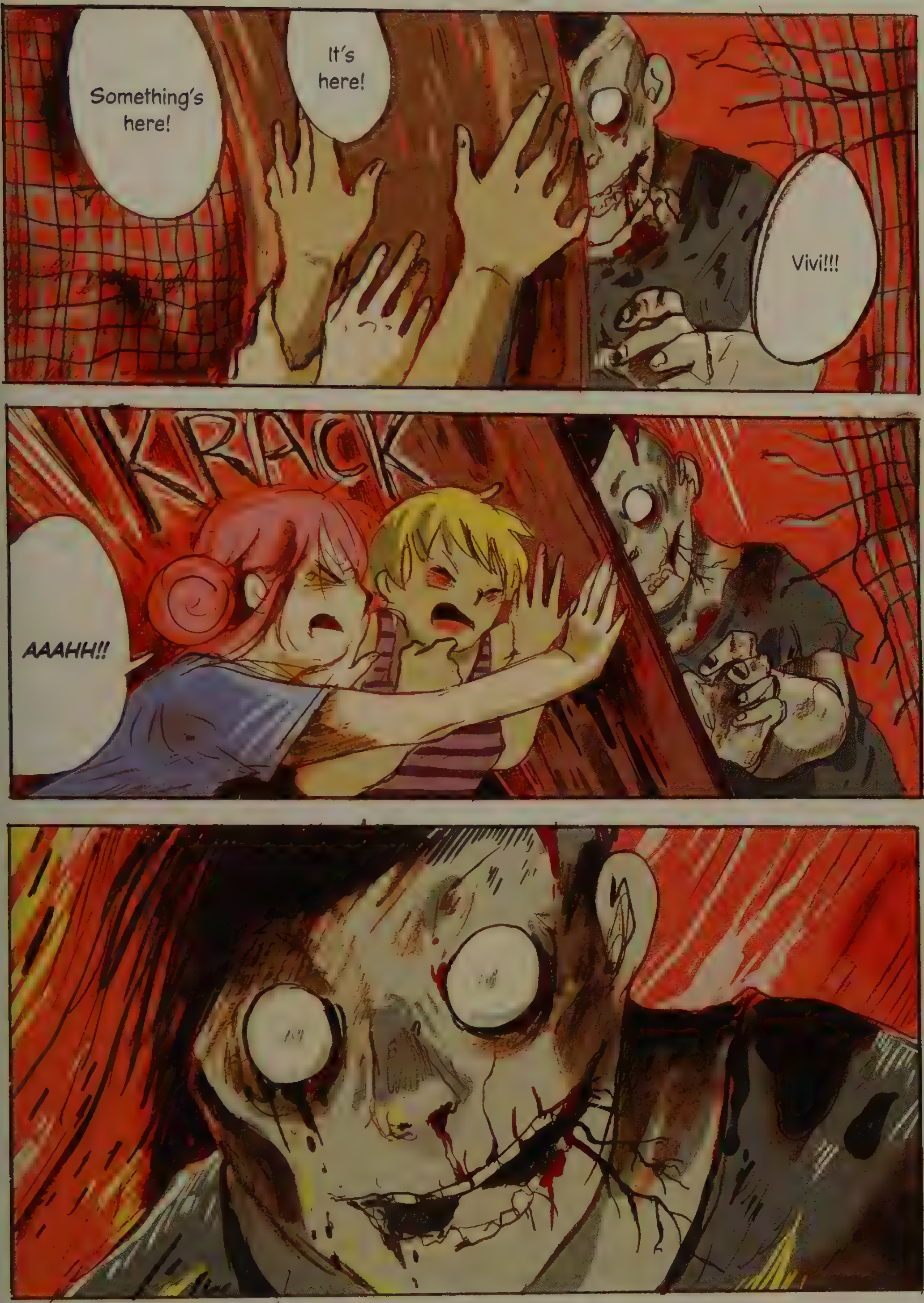

I think I'd be too scared to ride that train. No conductor or anything . . .
You're *not* going to ride the train.
Everything's forbidden except transport of goods.
Sshh
I wonder what it's like over in Jena now.
I hear things are way different than in Weimar.
Get to work. Now.
I'll come by again later.
. . .

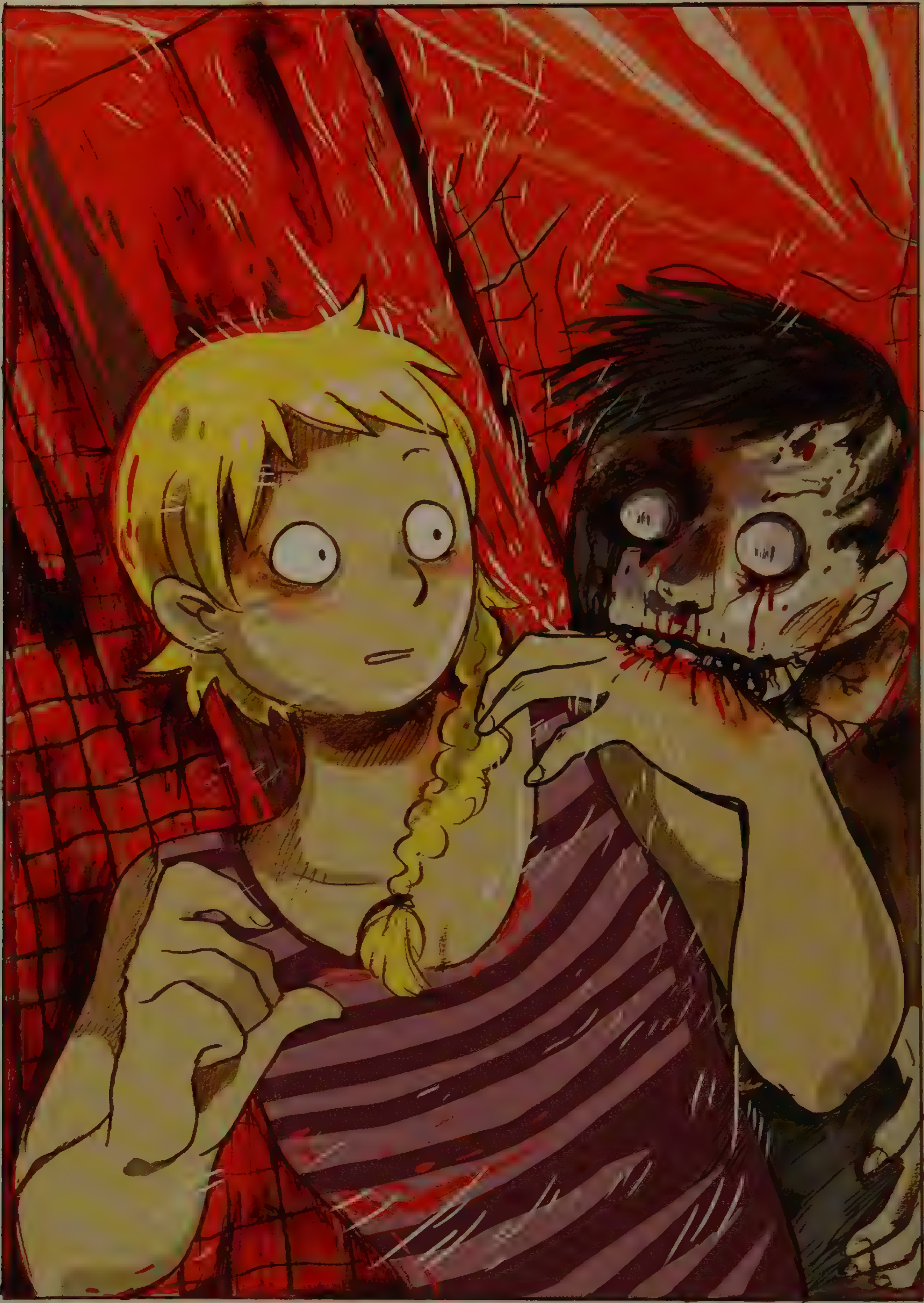

Sometimes I just stop and think . . . has it really only been two years since everything fell apart?
Yes.
Two years since the apocalypse . . . feels like half a lifetime, doesn't it?
Sigh . . .

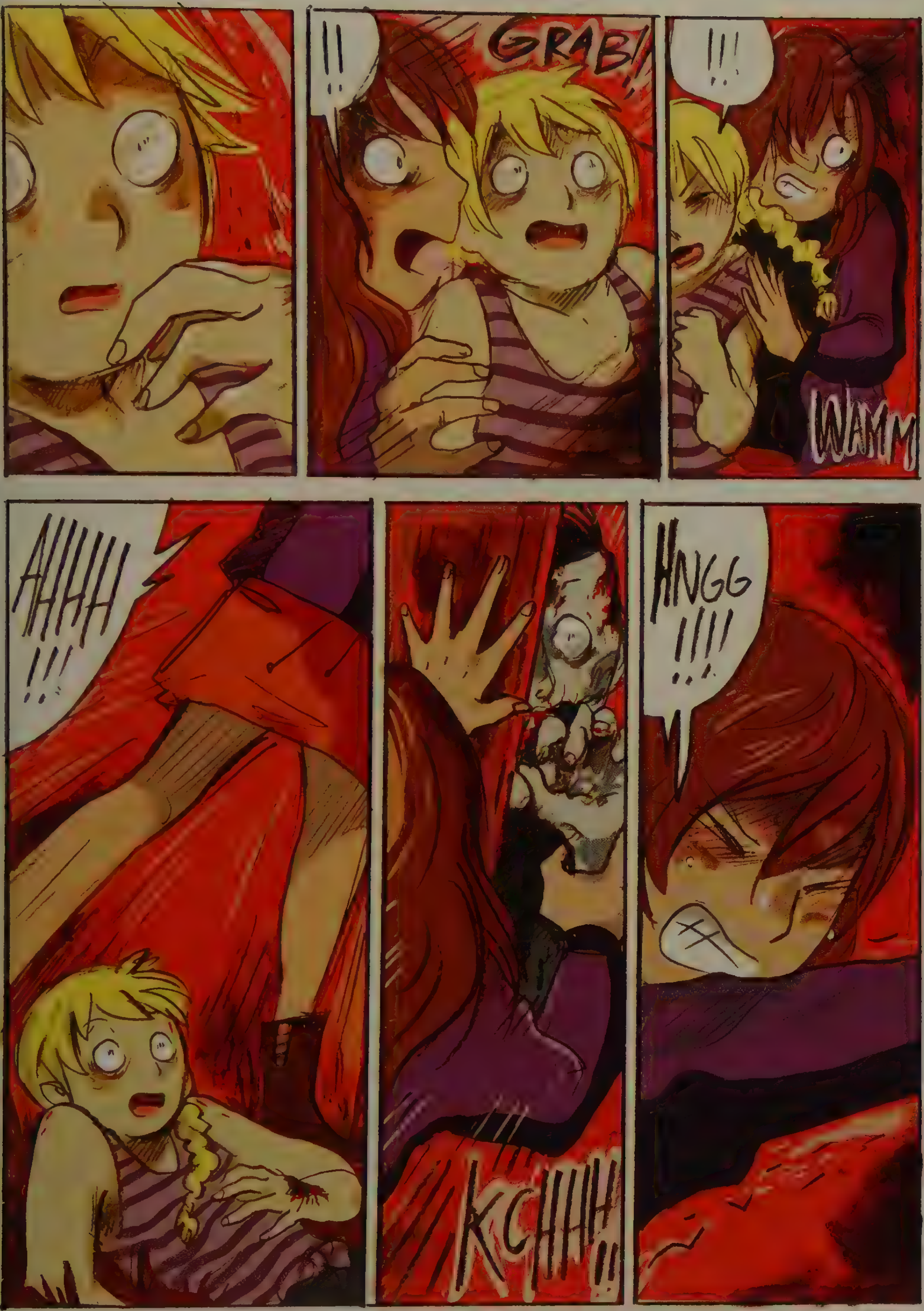

Well, let's get to it!
There's lots to do.
Yeah.
Let's start with the rotten plank right here.
Okay.
TOK
FLAP!!
Quick! Find some nails! Long nails!!
Um . . . I only see short ones!
And a file . . . ?
Oh God, we are ***so*** getting in trouble!

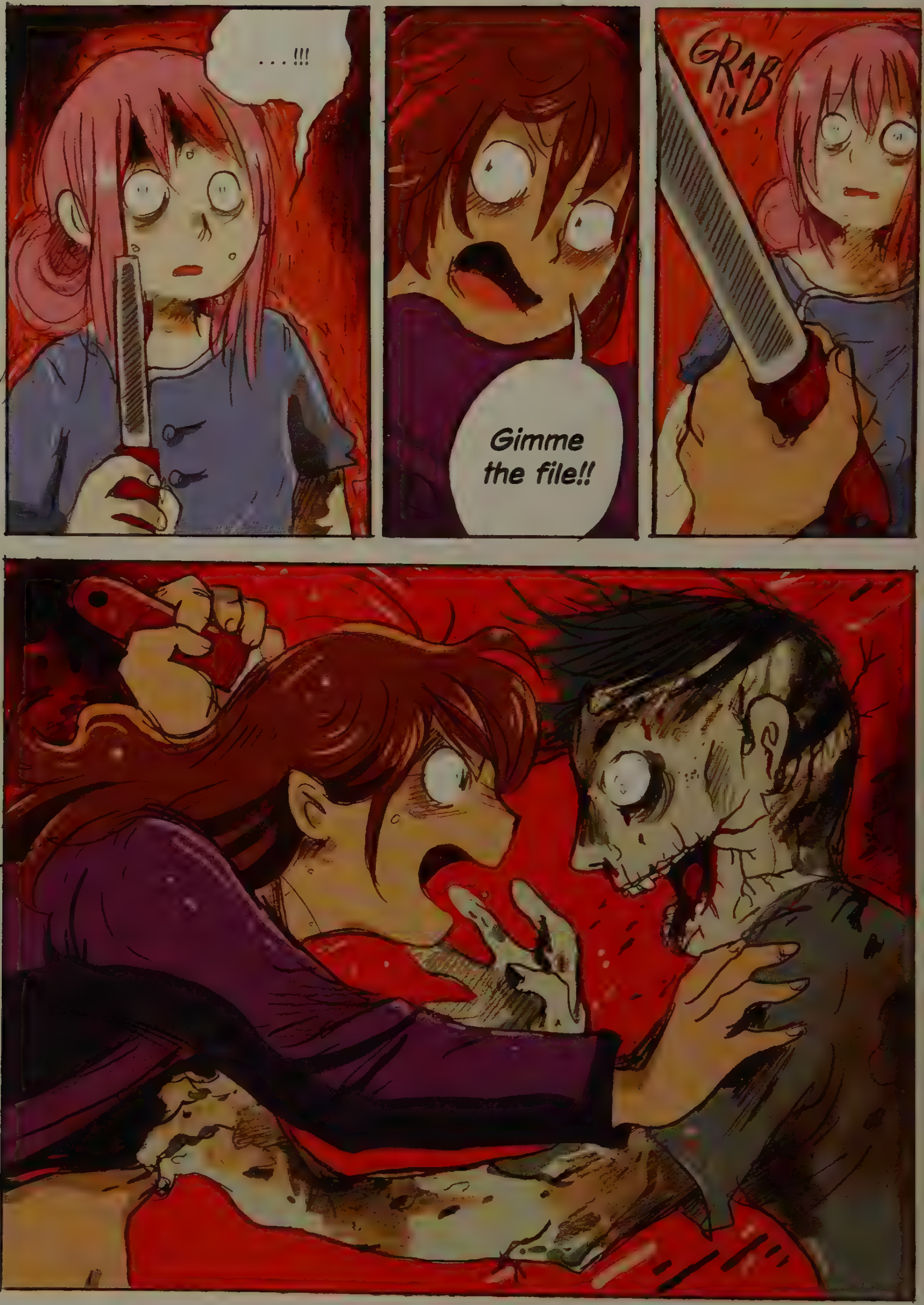

AAAHHHHHHH!!!

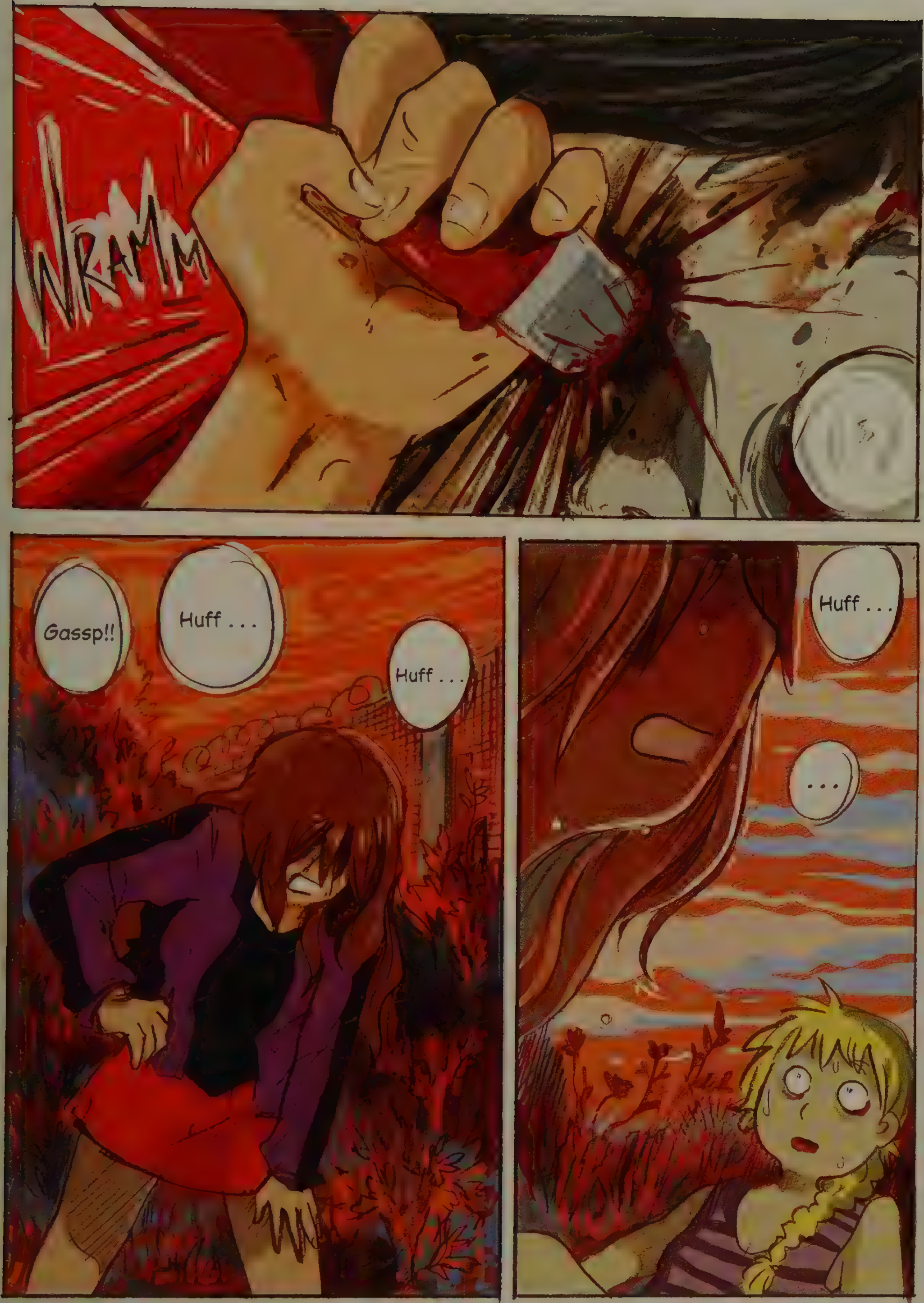

AAAHHHHHHH!!

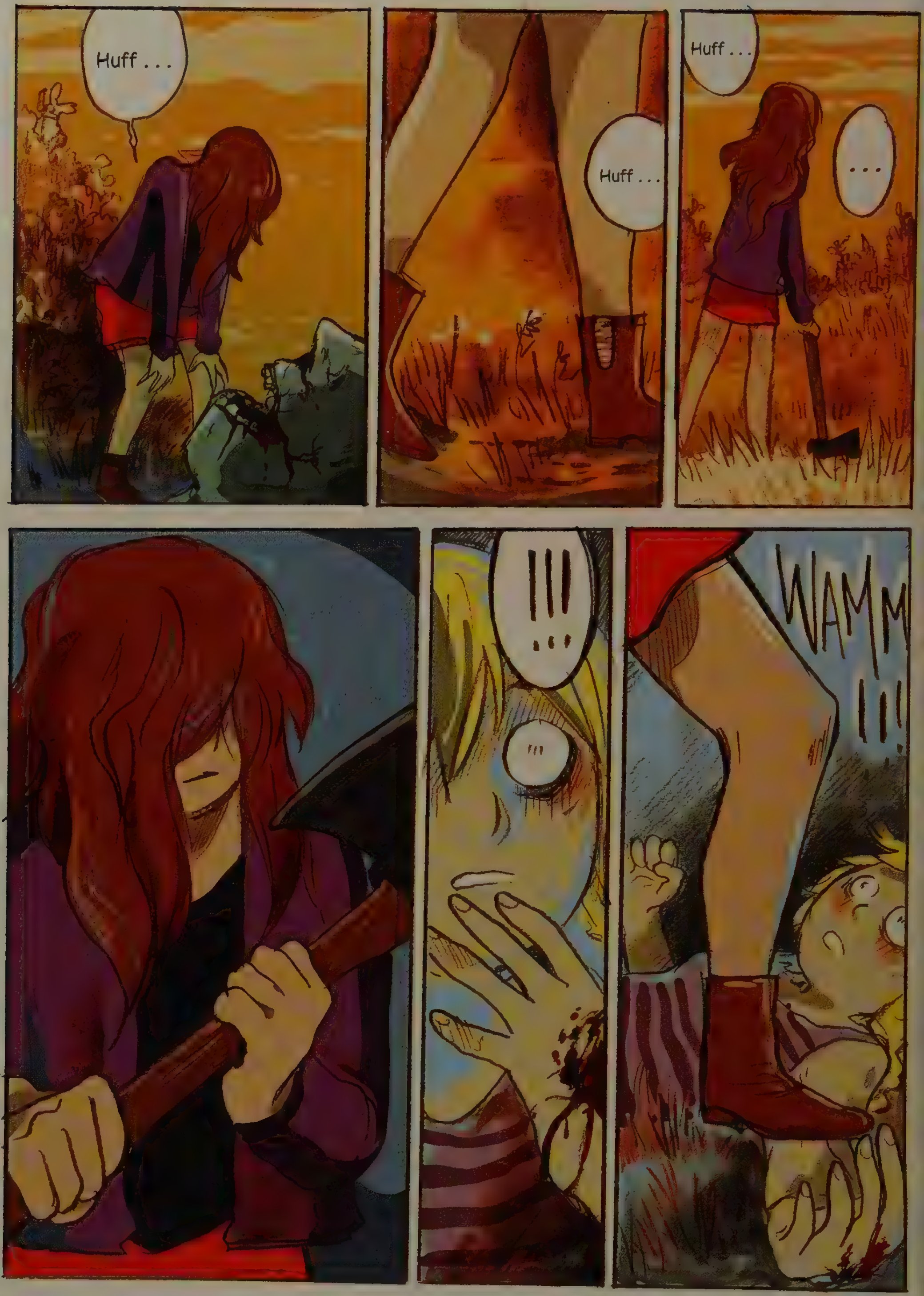

Something's here!
It's here!
Vivi!!!
KRACK
AAAHH!!

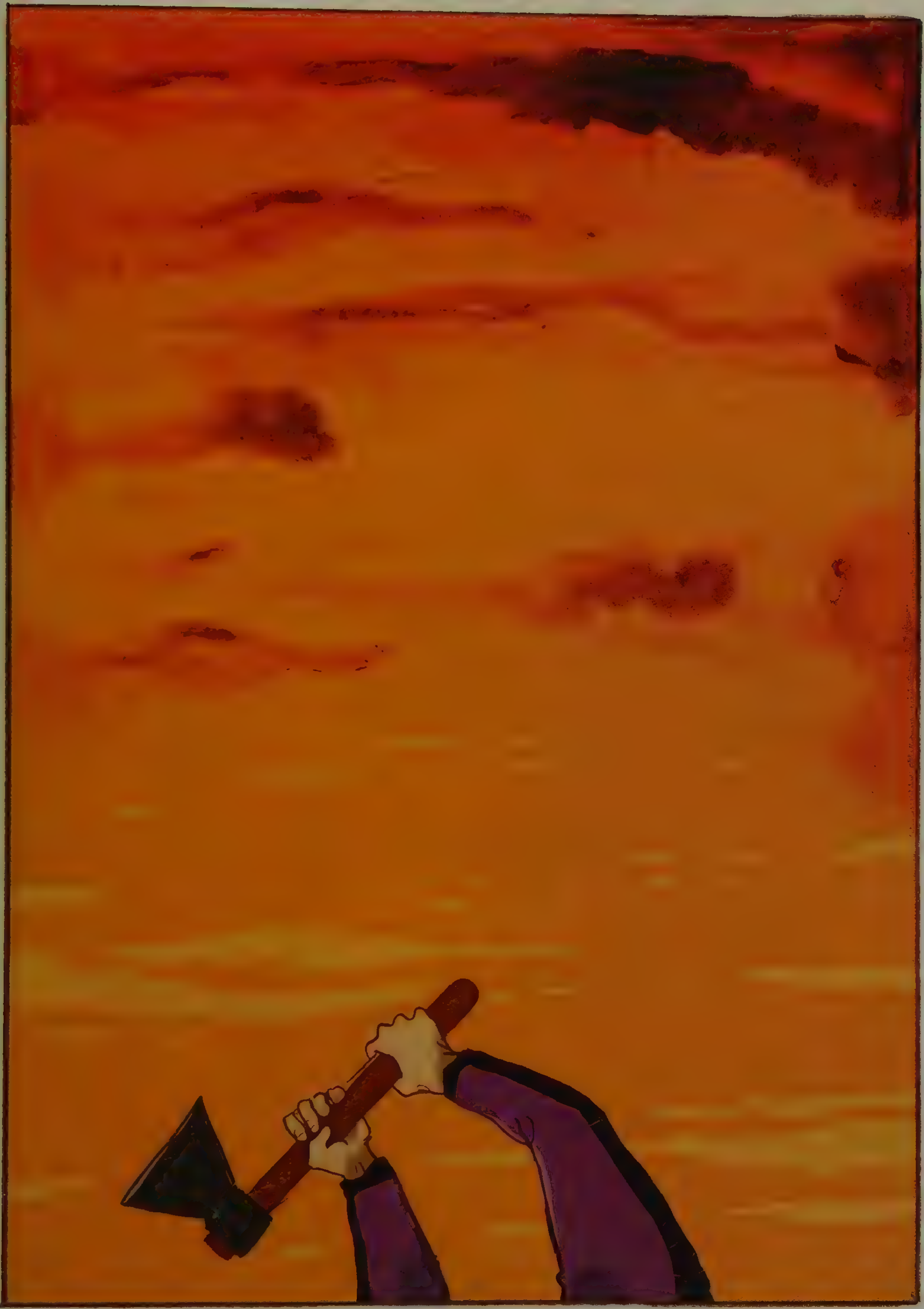


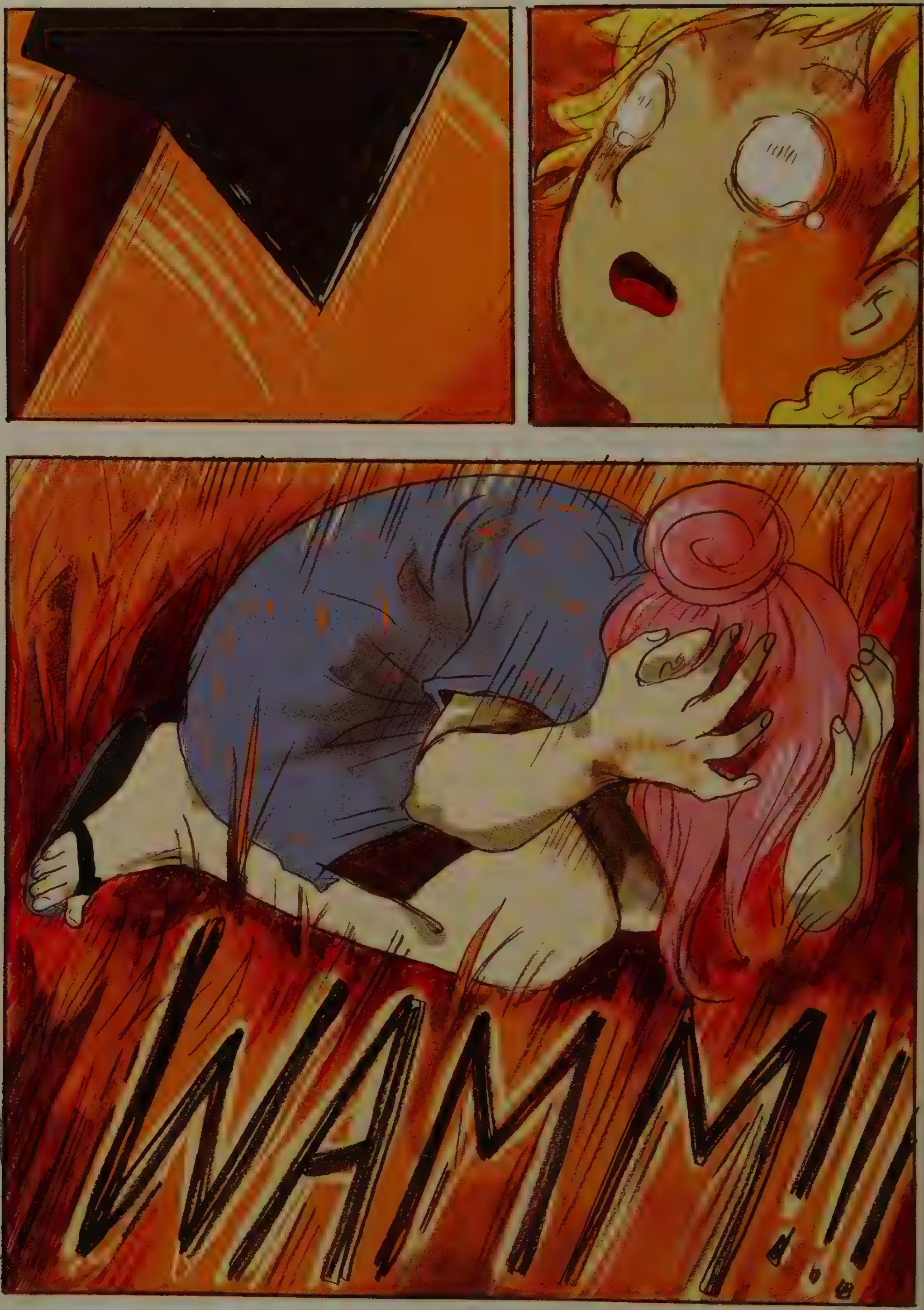

!!
GRAB!!
!!!
WAMM
AHHHH
!!!
KCHHH!!
HNGG
!!!!

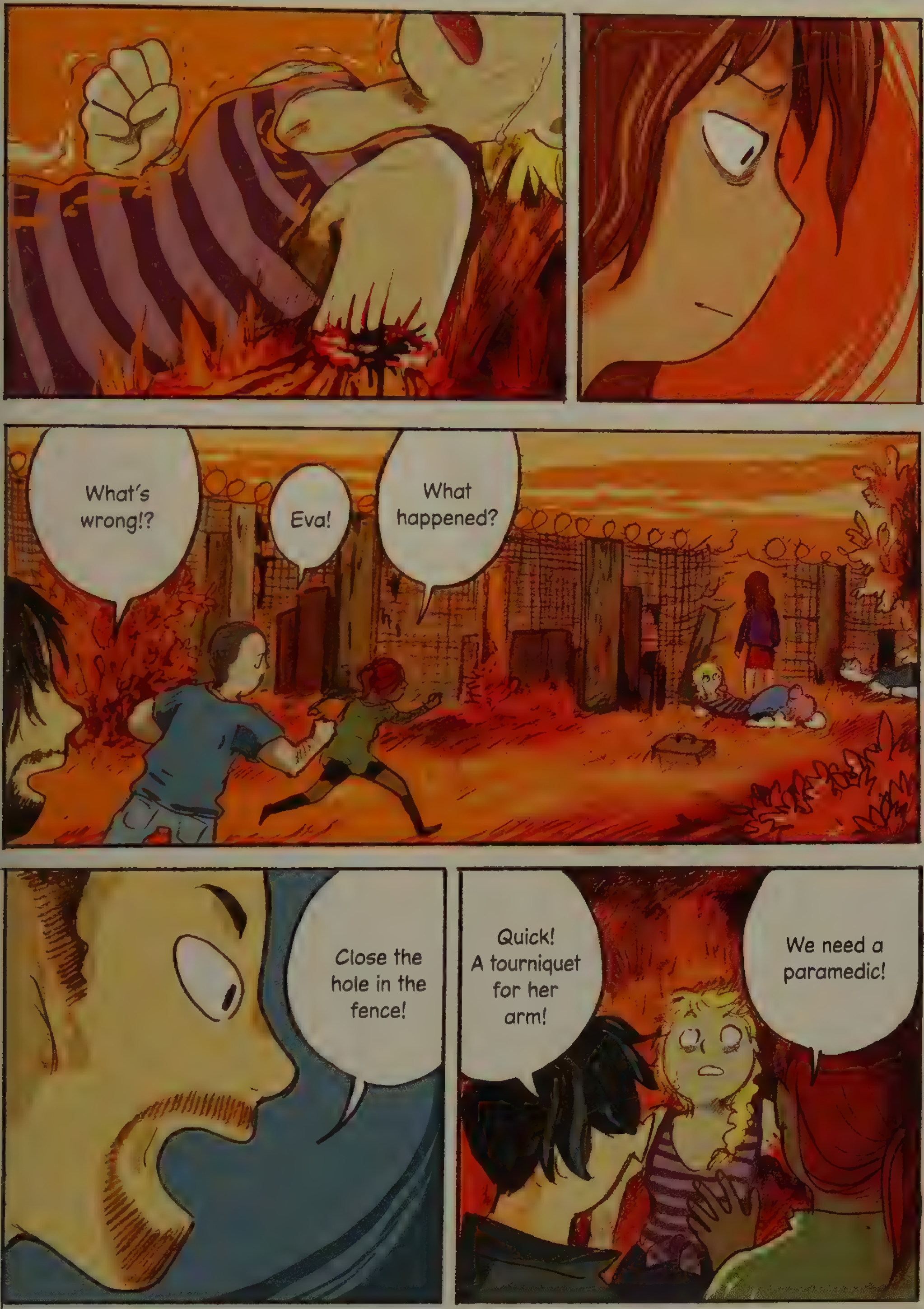

. . . !!!
Gimme the file!!
GRAB!!

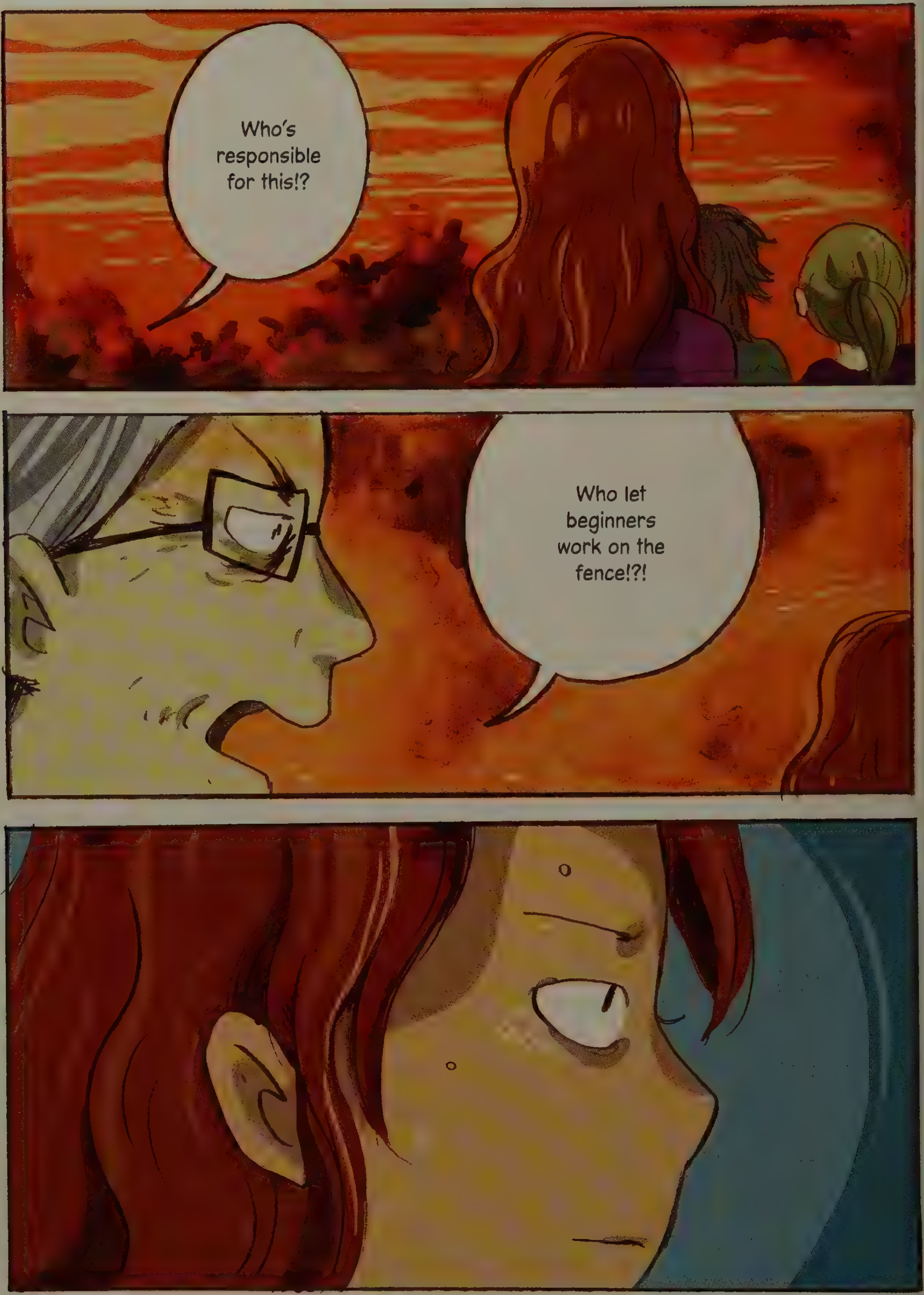

WRAMM
Gassp!!
Huff . . .
Huff . . .
Huff . . .
. . .

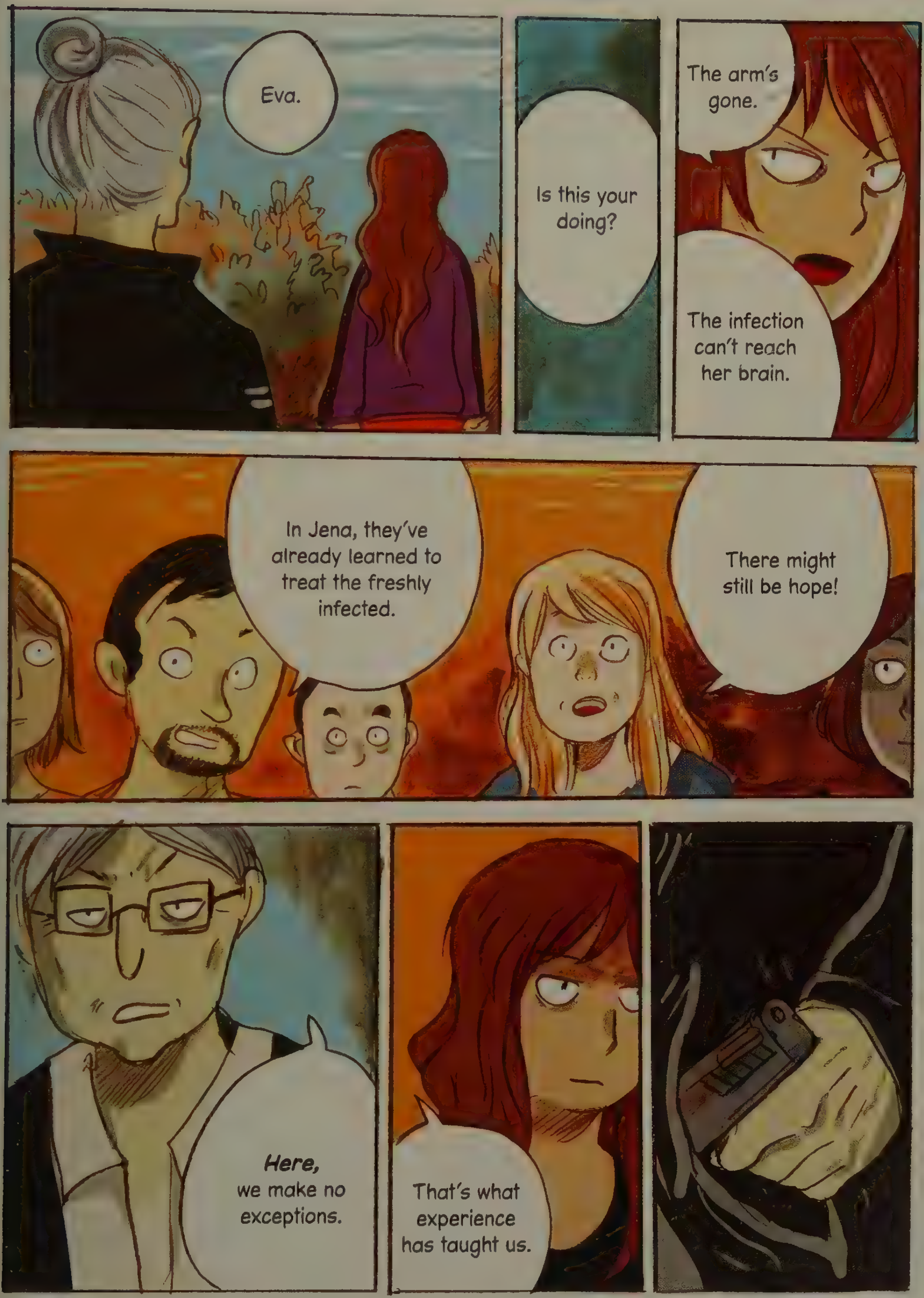

Huff . . .
Huff . . .
Huff . . .
. . .
!!!
WAMM
!!!

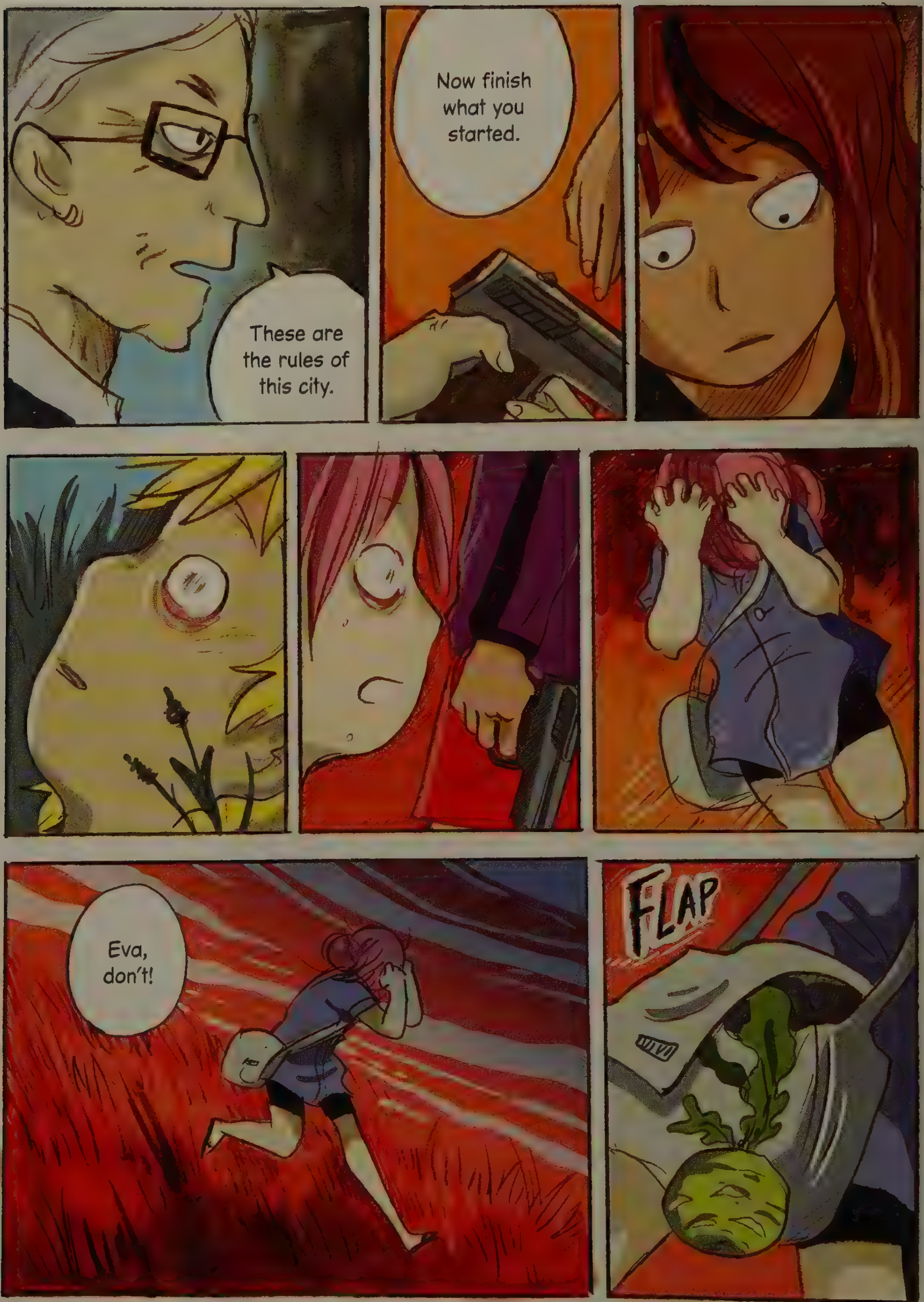


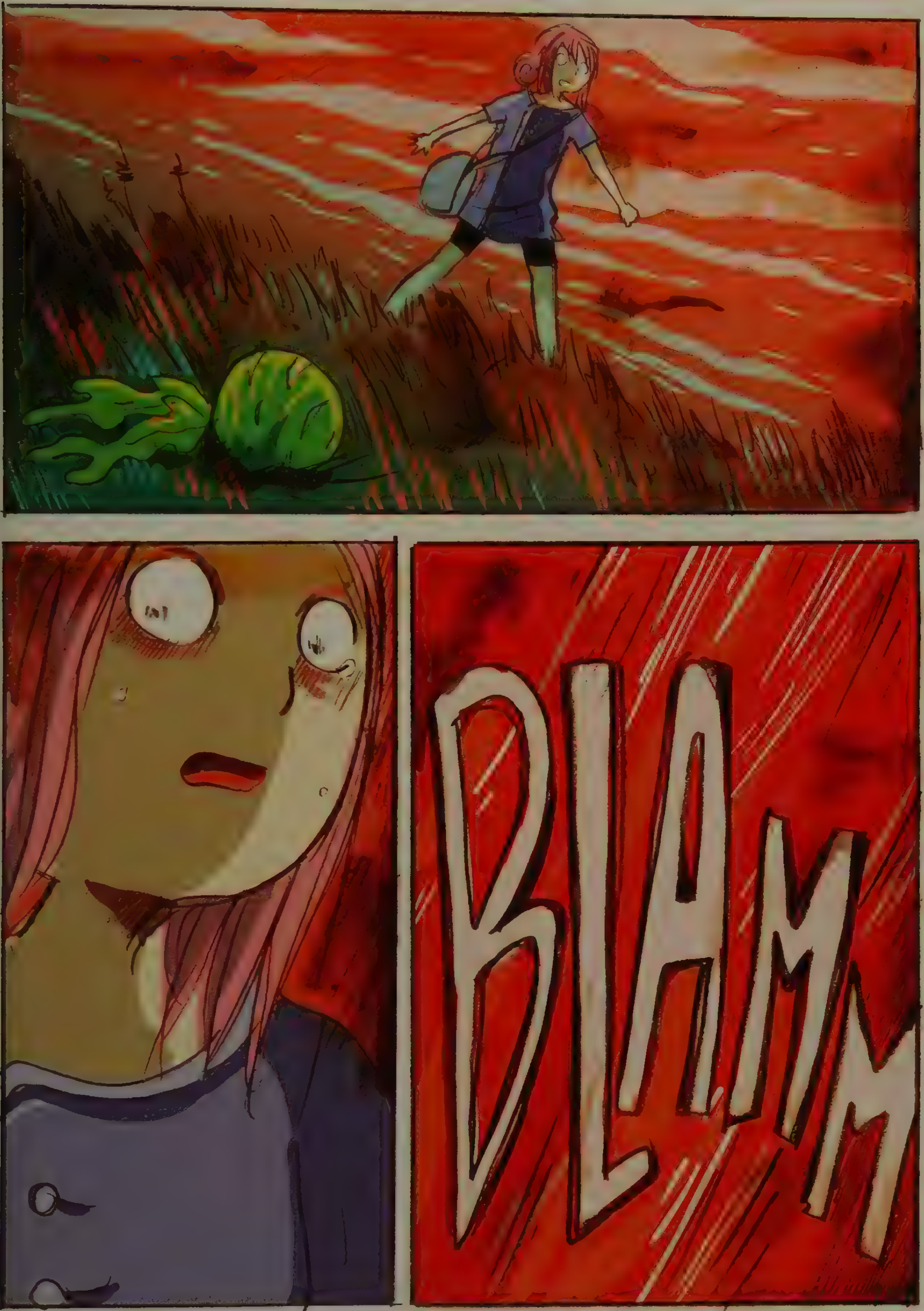

WAMM!!

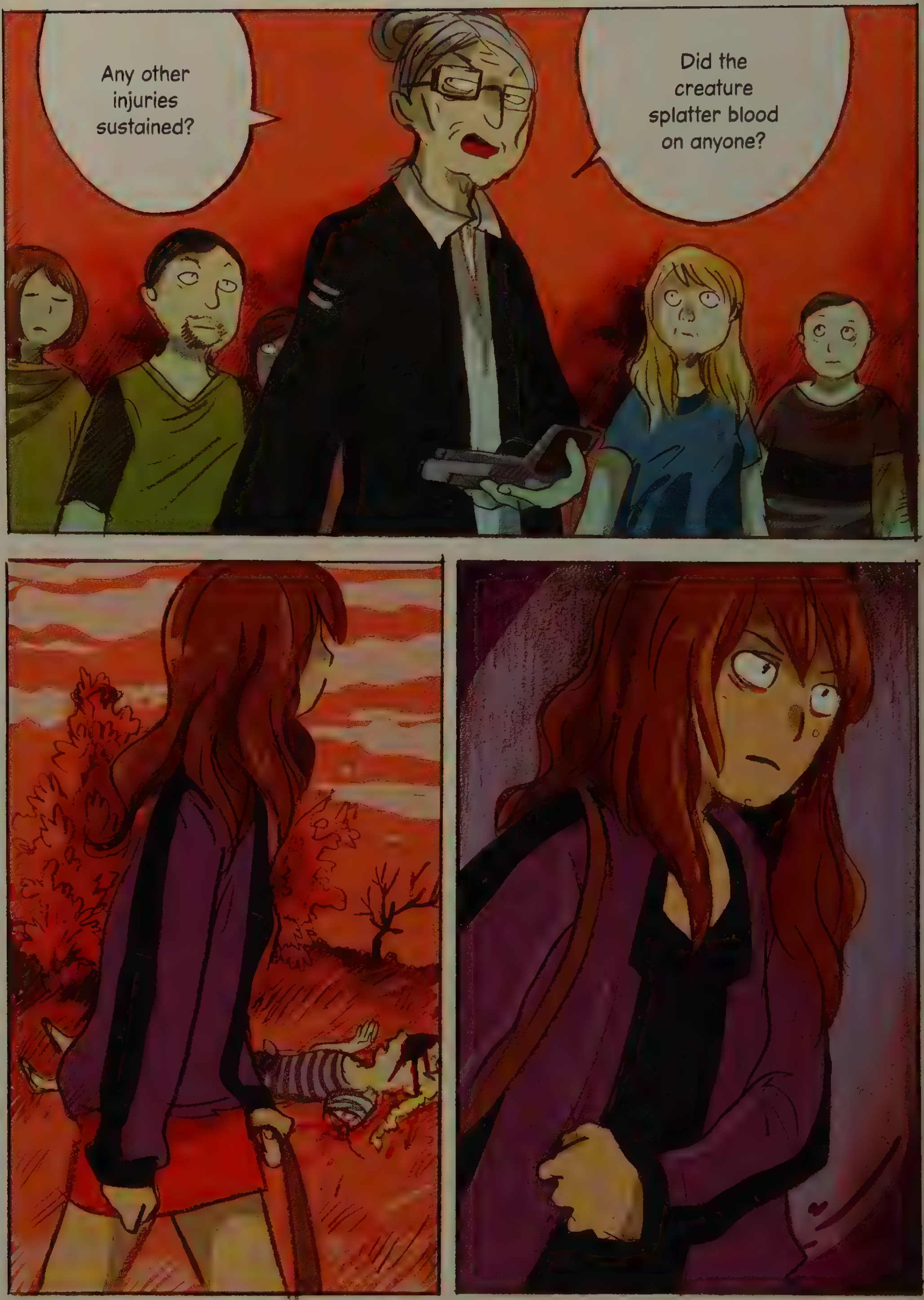

What's wrong!?
Eva!
What happened?
Close the hole in the fence!
Quick! A tourniquet for her arm!
We need a paramedic!

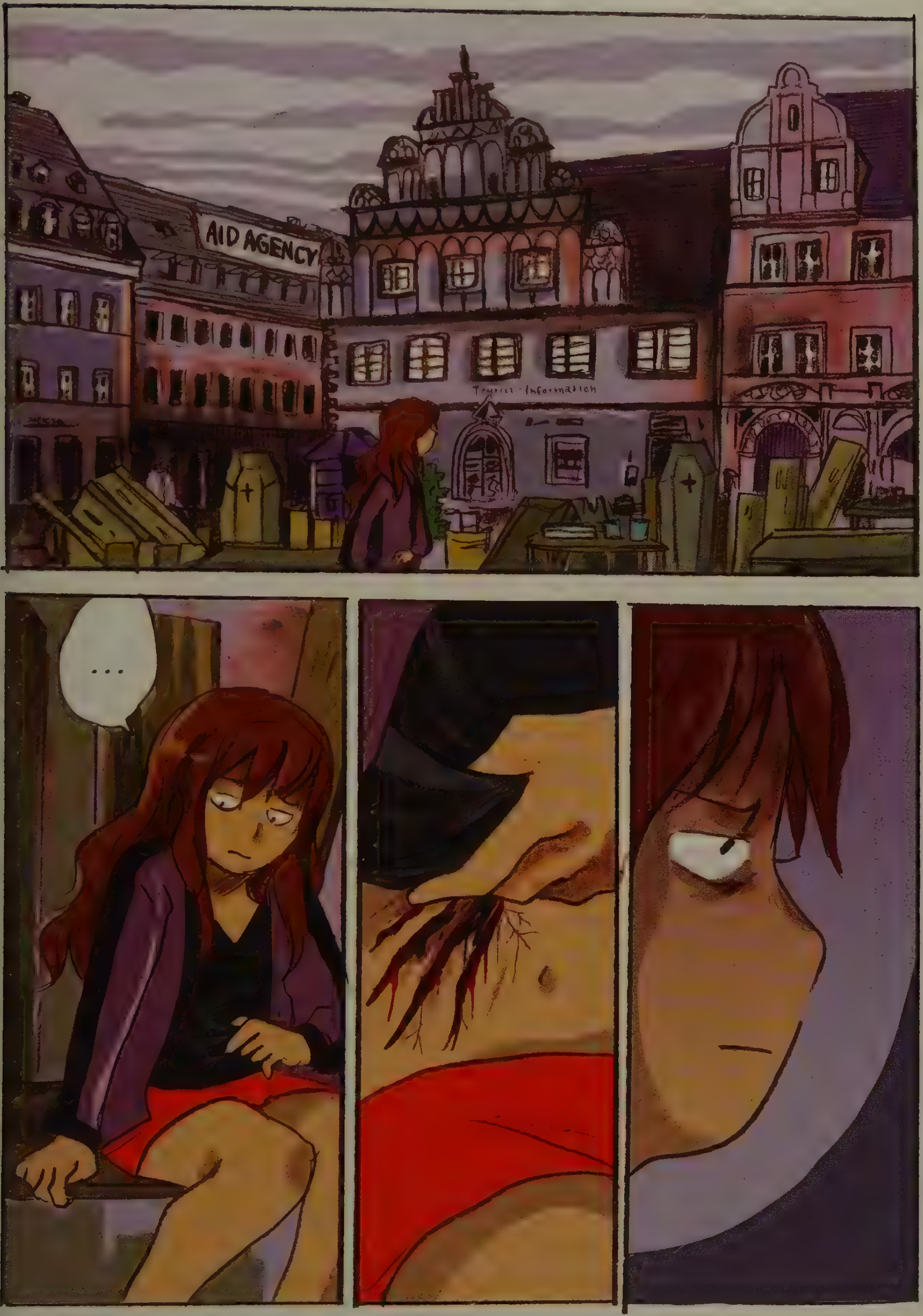

Who's responsible for this!?
Who let beginners work on the fence!?!

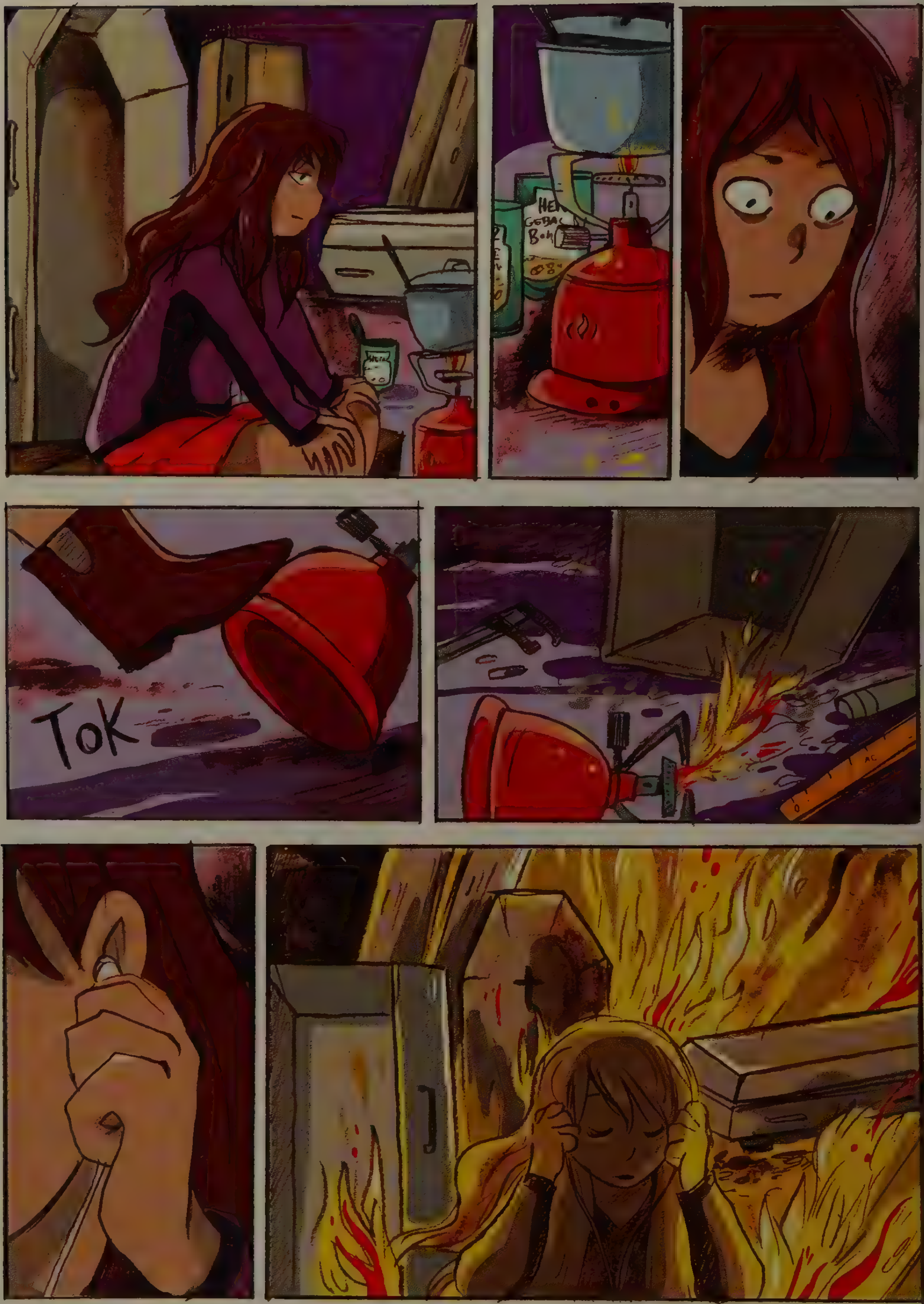

Eva.
Is this your doing?
The arm's gone.
The infection can't reach her brain.
In Jena, they've already learned to treat the freshly infected.
There might still be hope!
Here, we make no exceptions.
That's what experience has taught us.

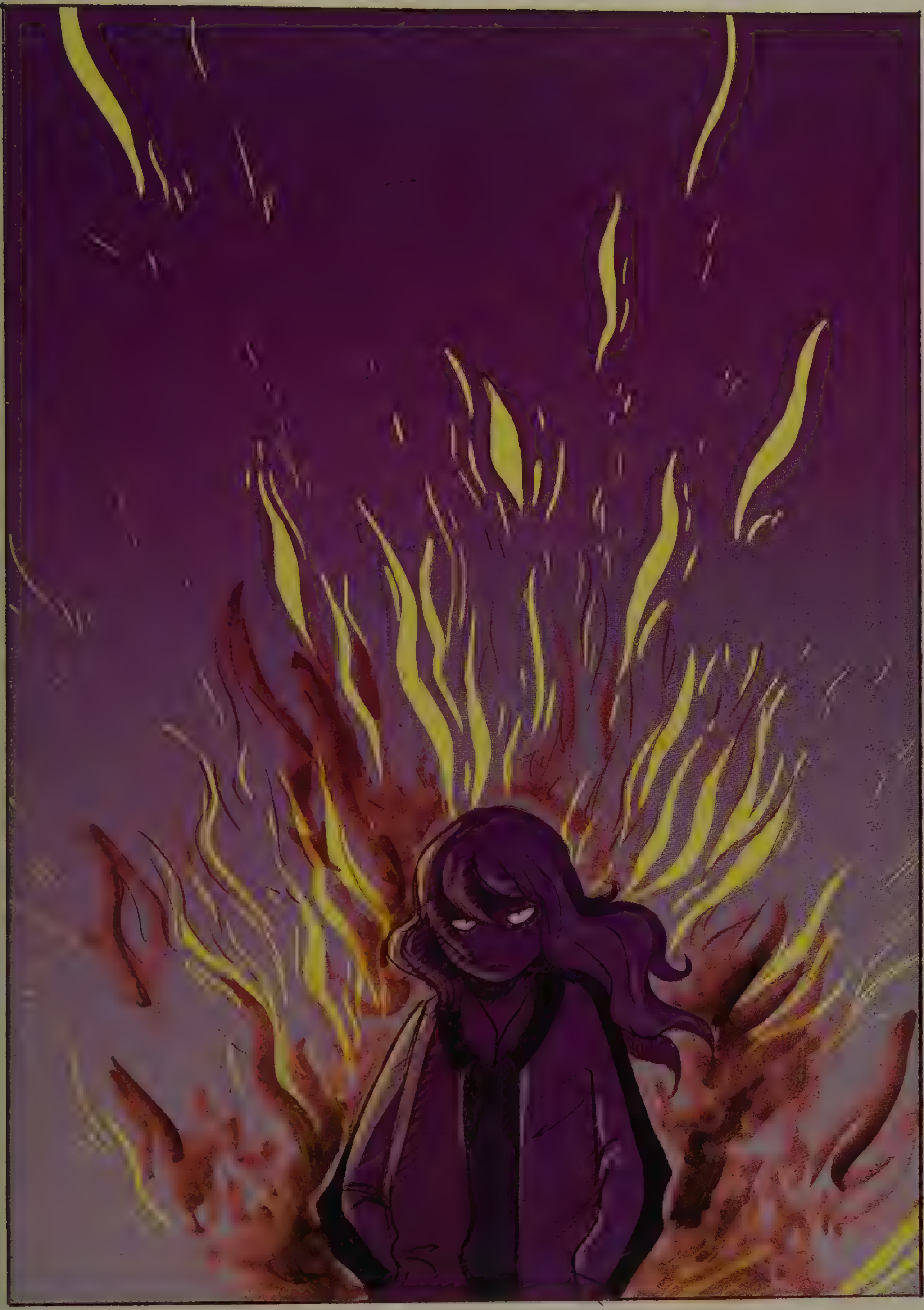

These are the rules of this city.
Now finish what you started.
Eva, don't!
FLAP

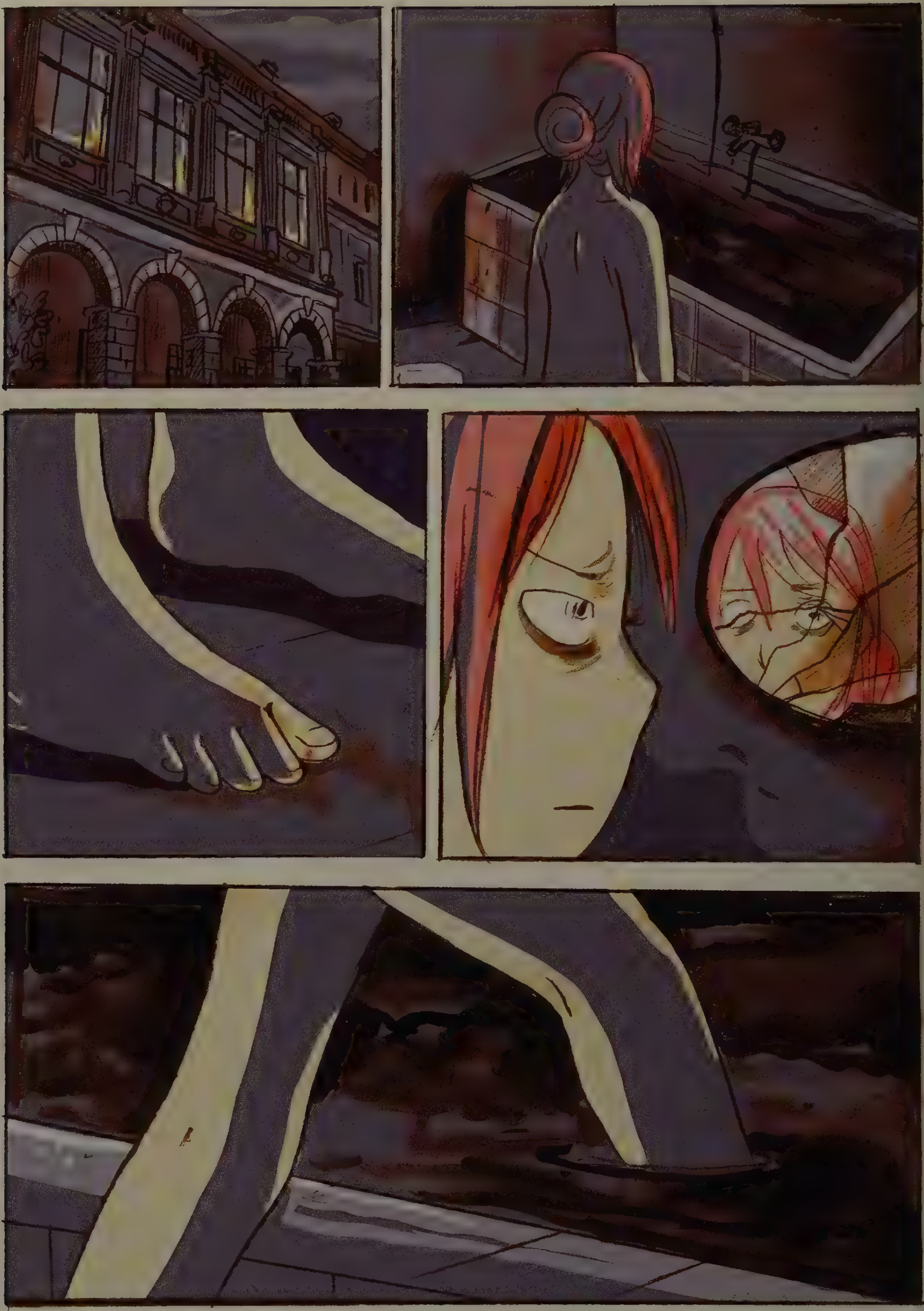

BLAMM

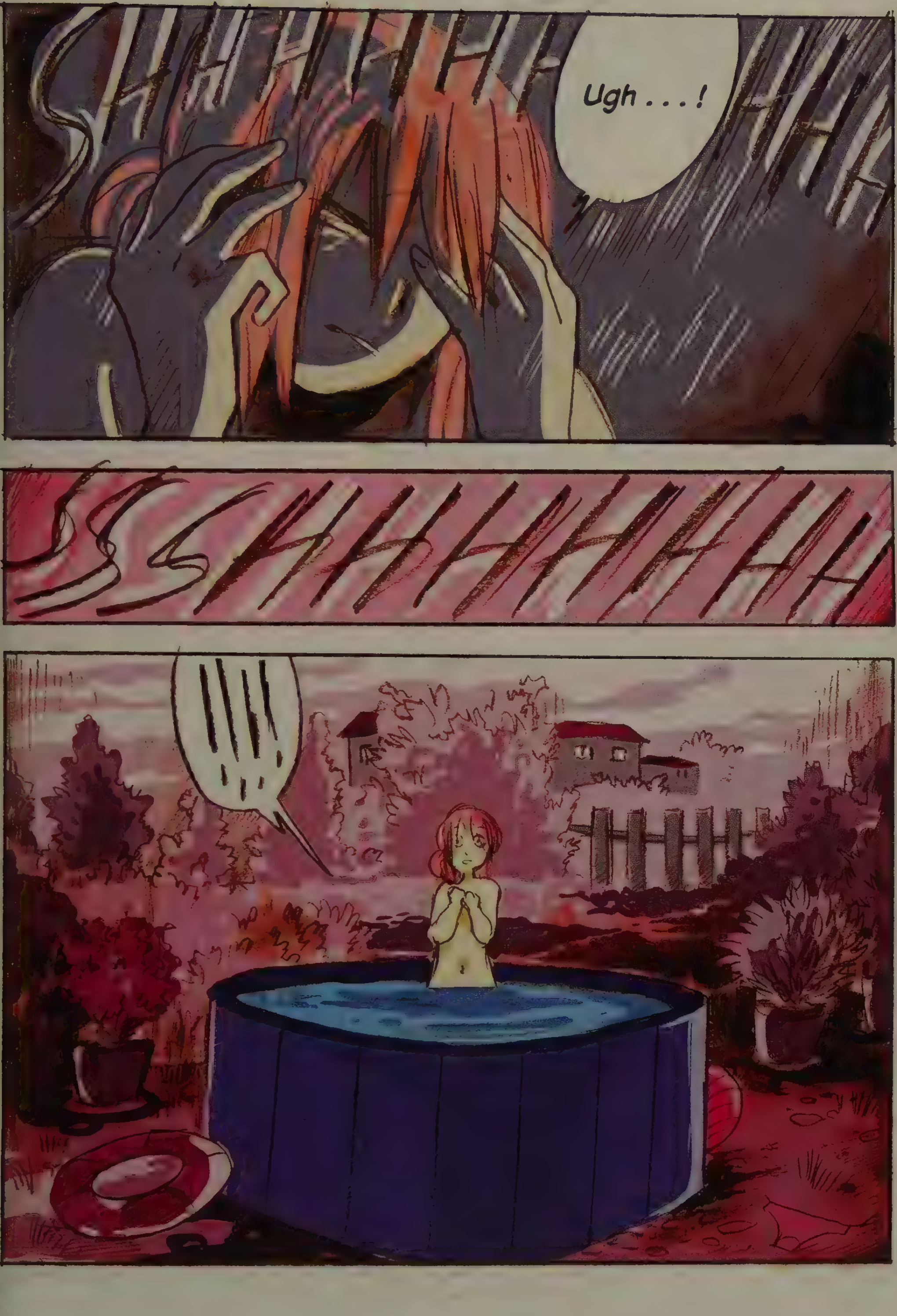

Any other injuries sustained?
Did the creature splatter blood on anyone?

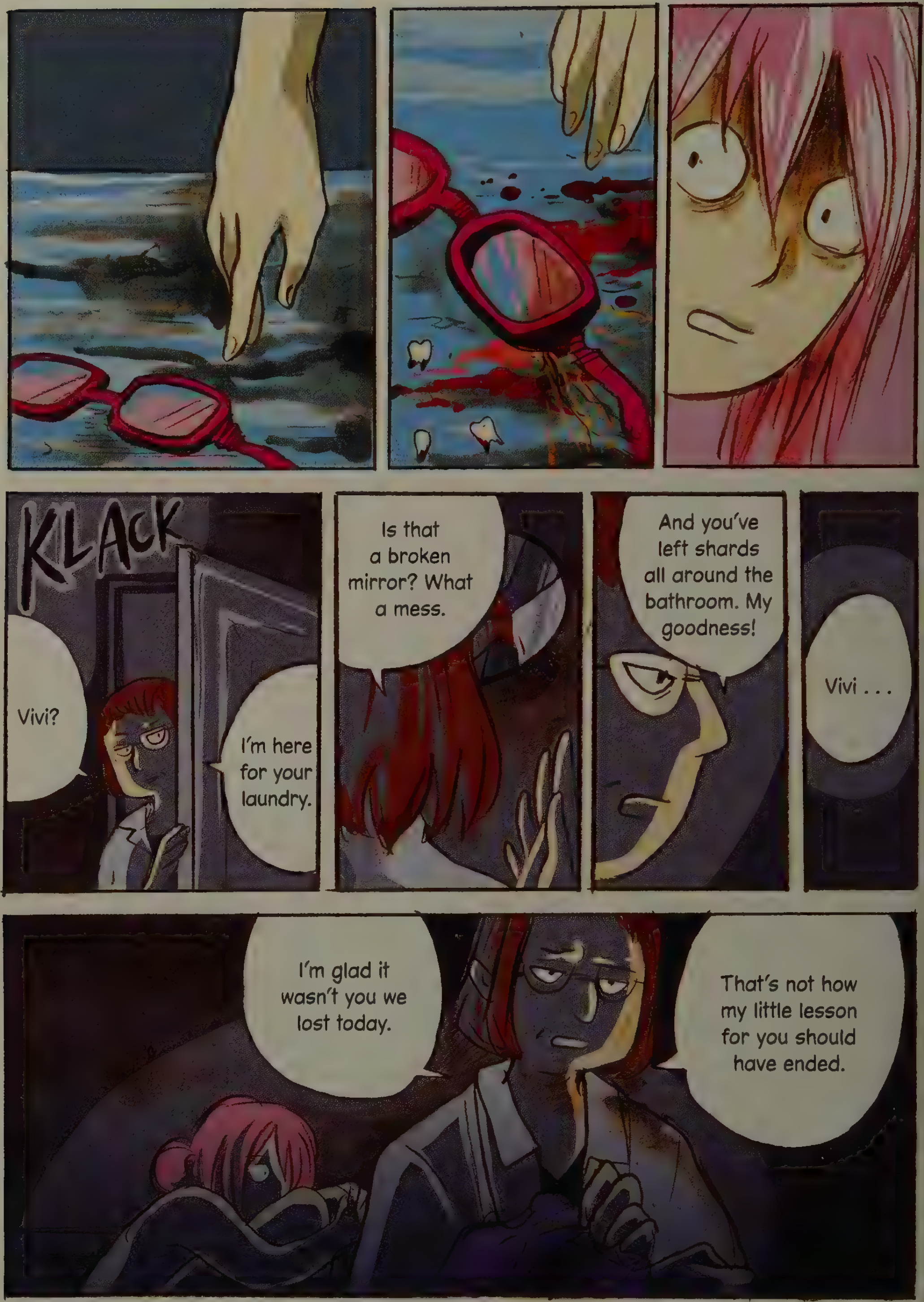

AID AGENCY
Tourist Information
...

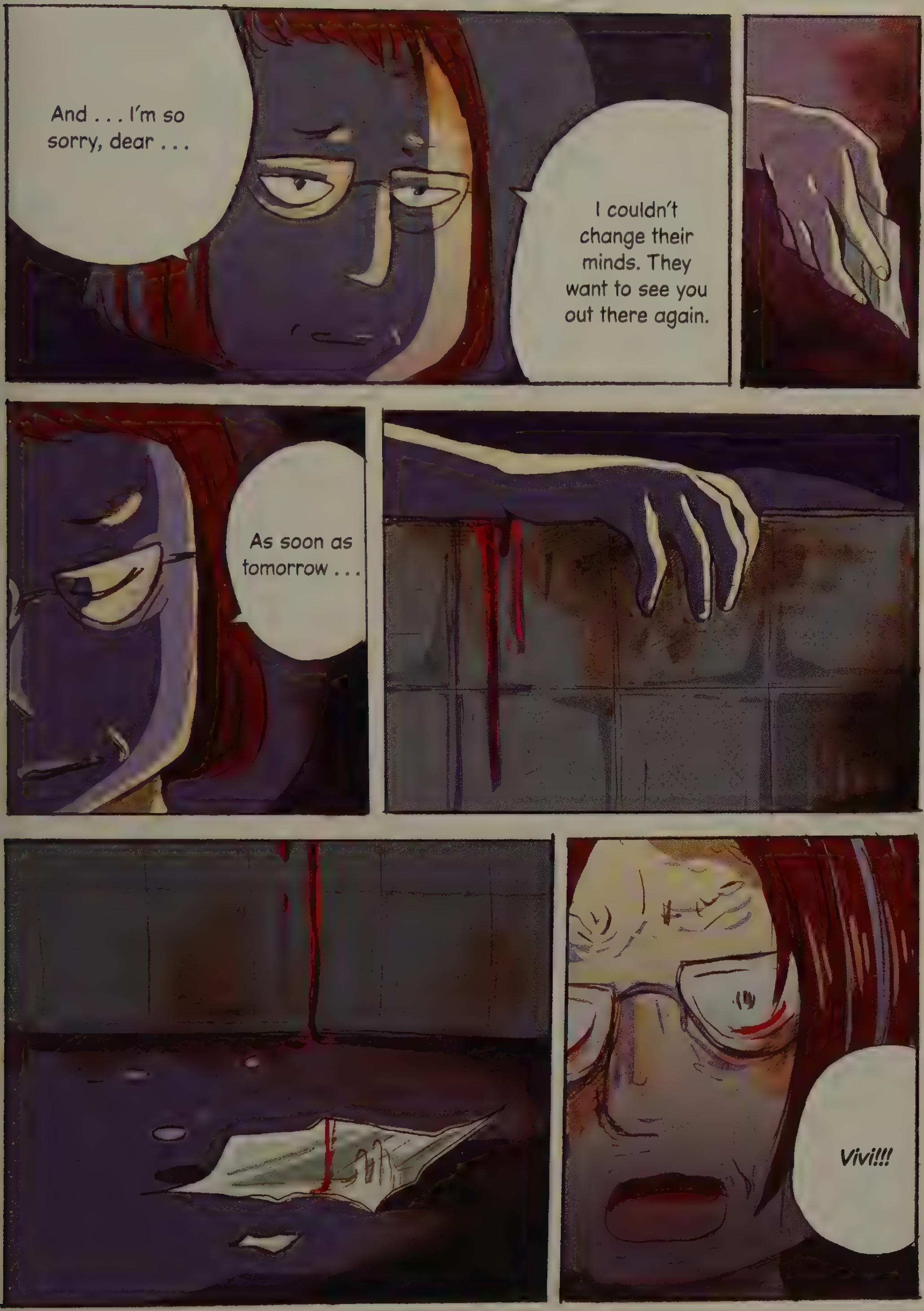

TOK

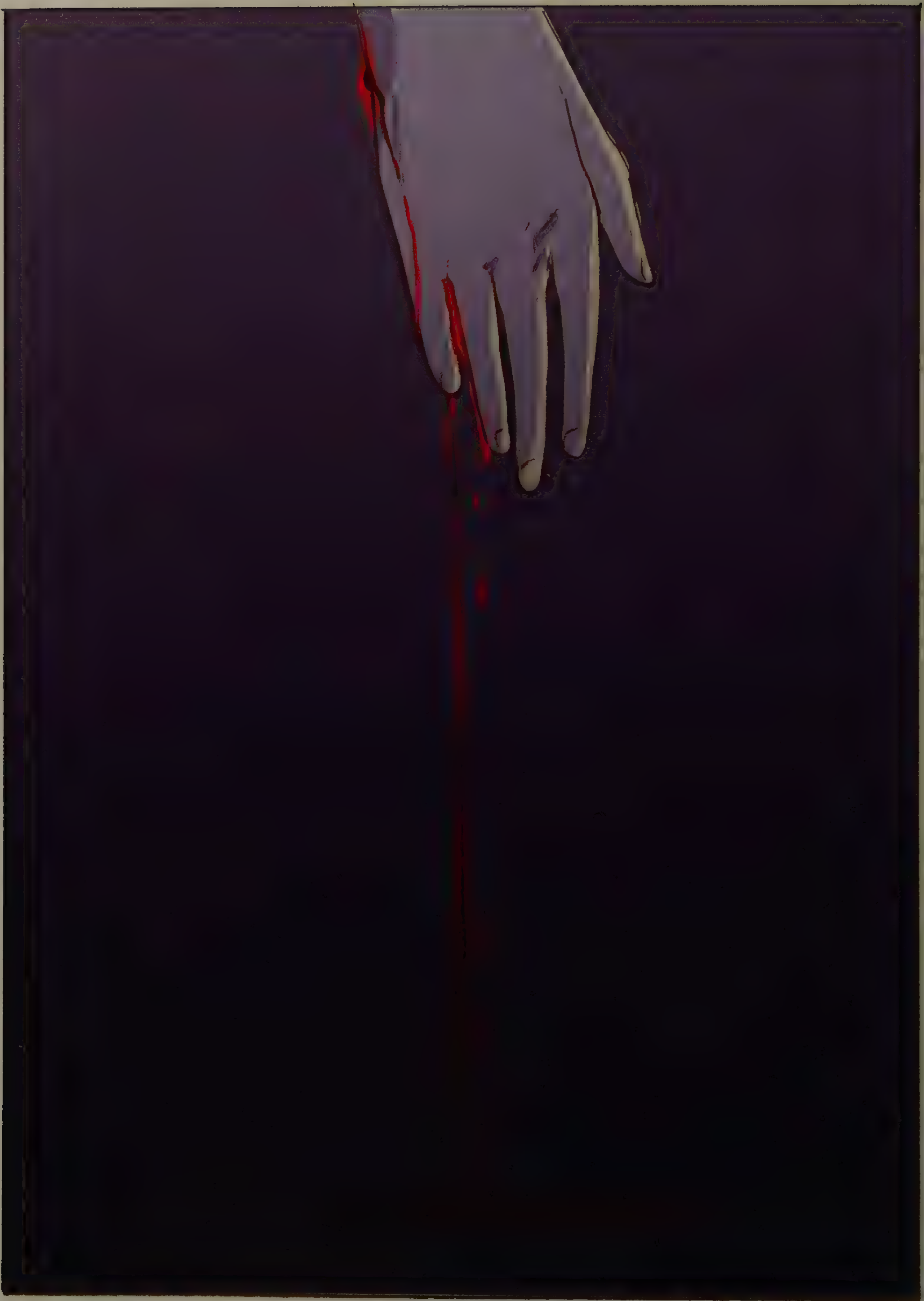


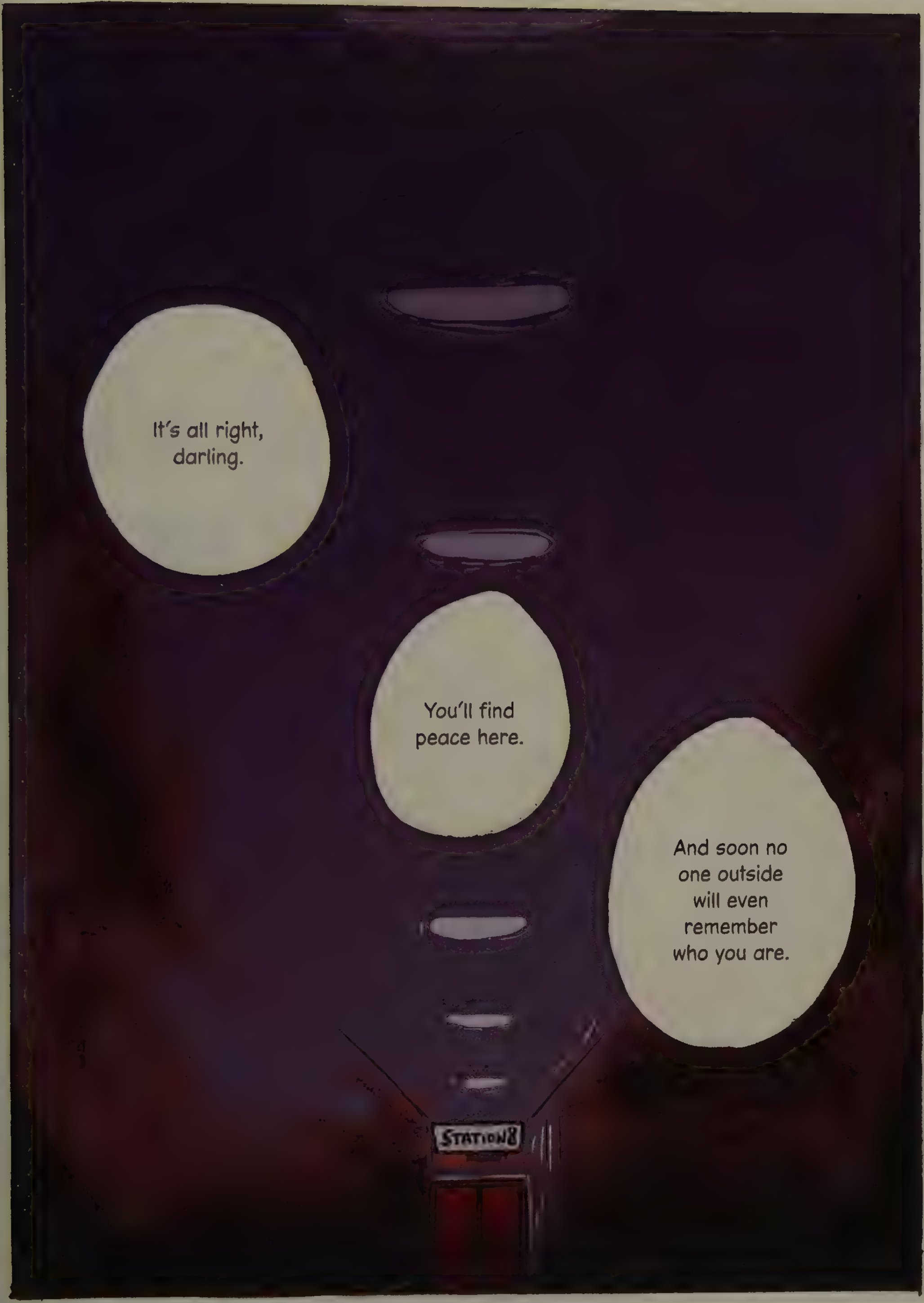


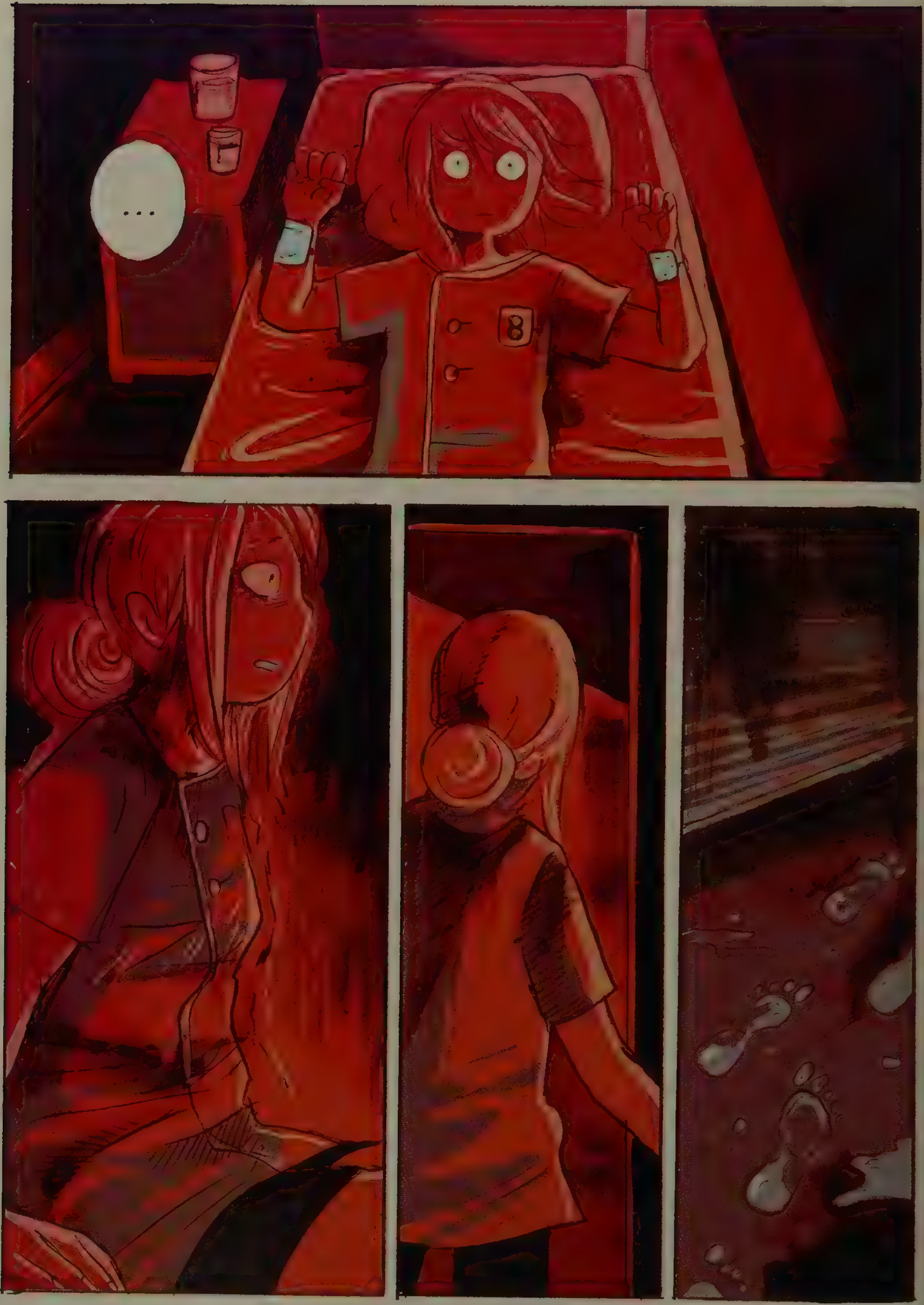

SHHHHHHHHHH
Ugh . . . !
SSHHHHHHHHHHHH

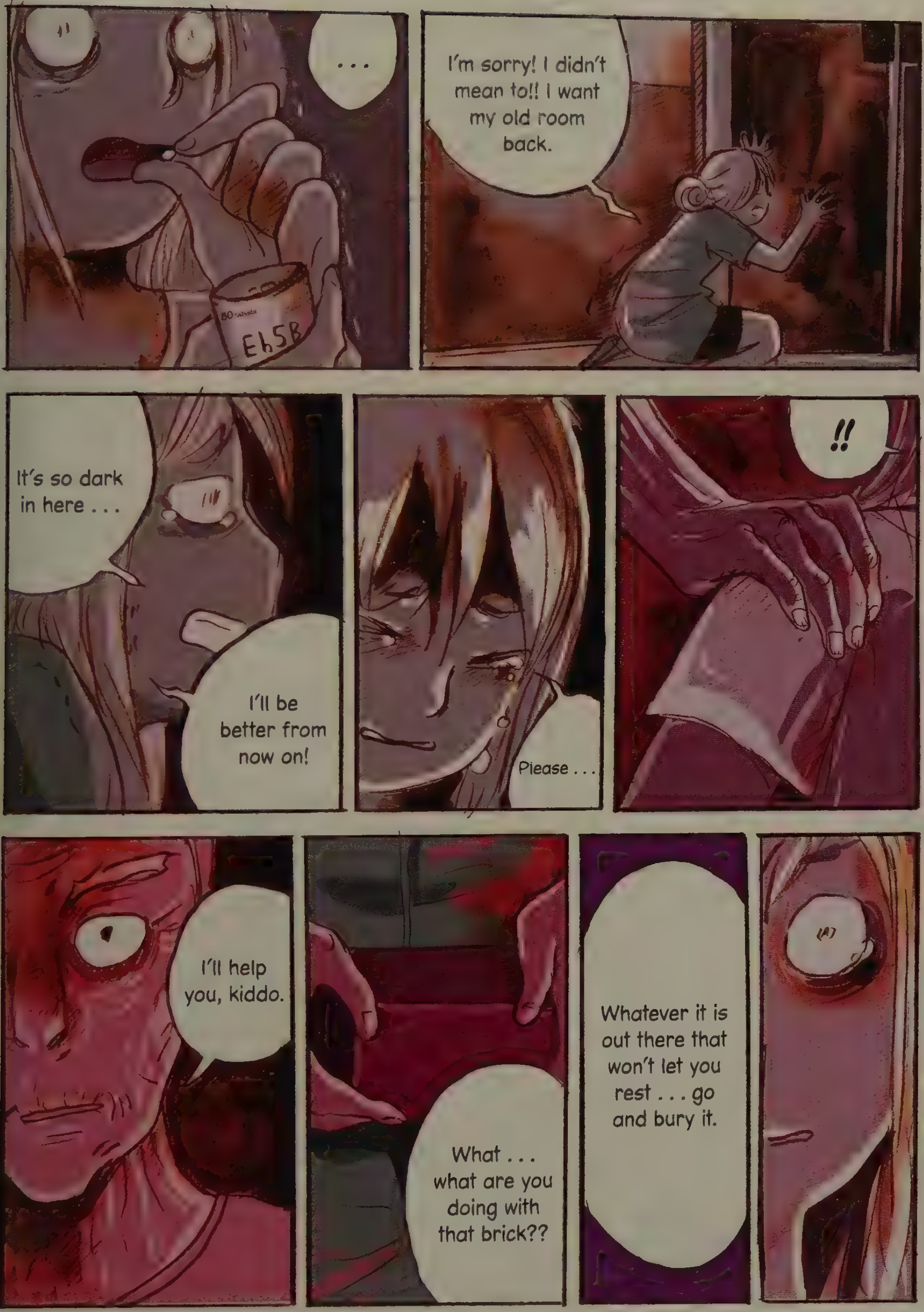

KLACK
Vivi?
I'm here for your laundry.
Is that a broken mirror? What a mess.
And you've left shards all around the bathroom. My goodness!
Vivi . . .
I'm glad it wasn't you we lost today.
That's not how my little lesson for you should have ended.

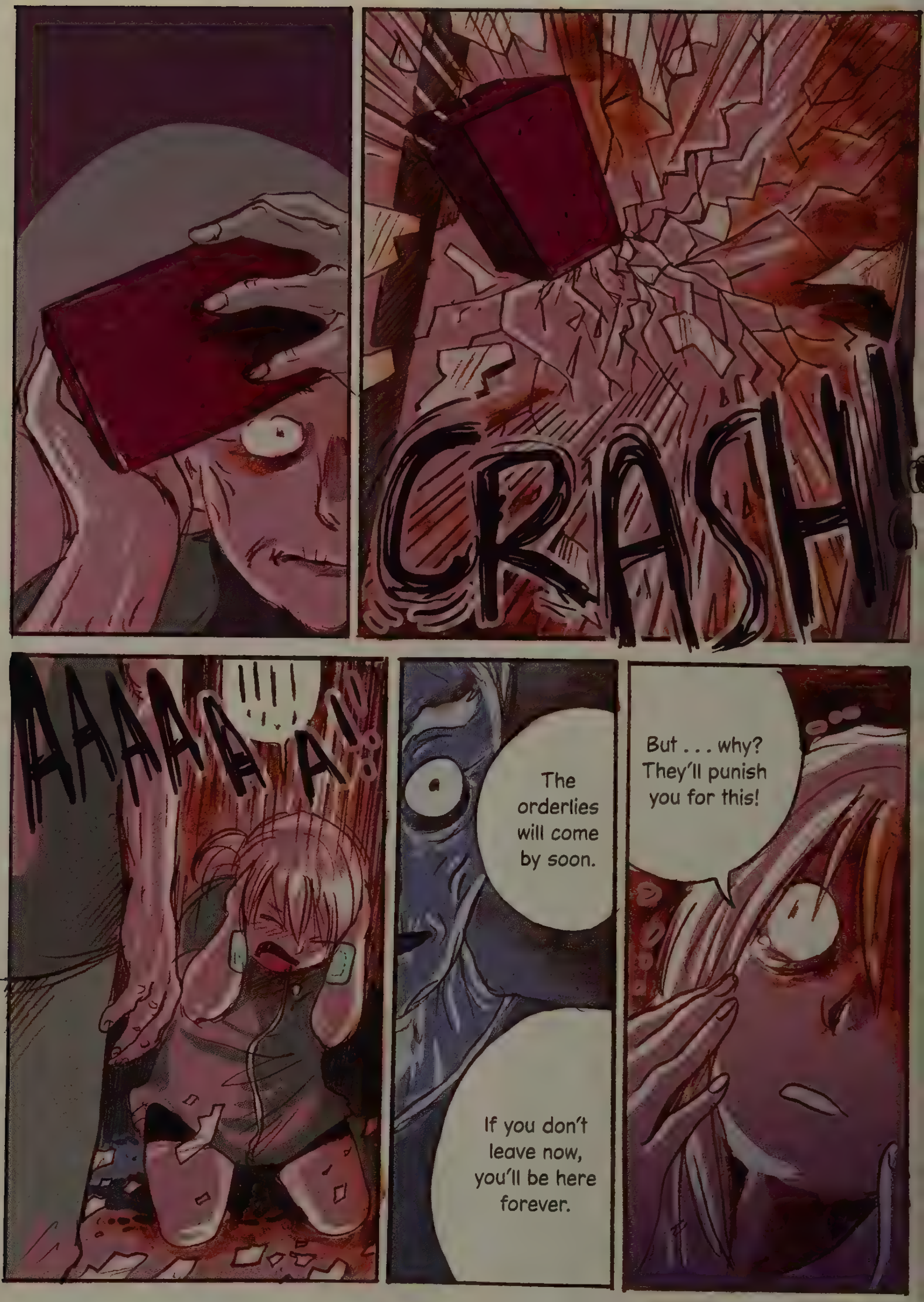

And . . . I'm so sorry, dear . . .
I couldn't change their minds. They want to see you out there again.
As soon as tomorrow . . .
Vivi!!!

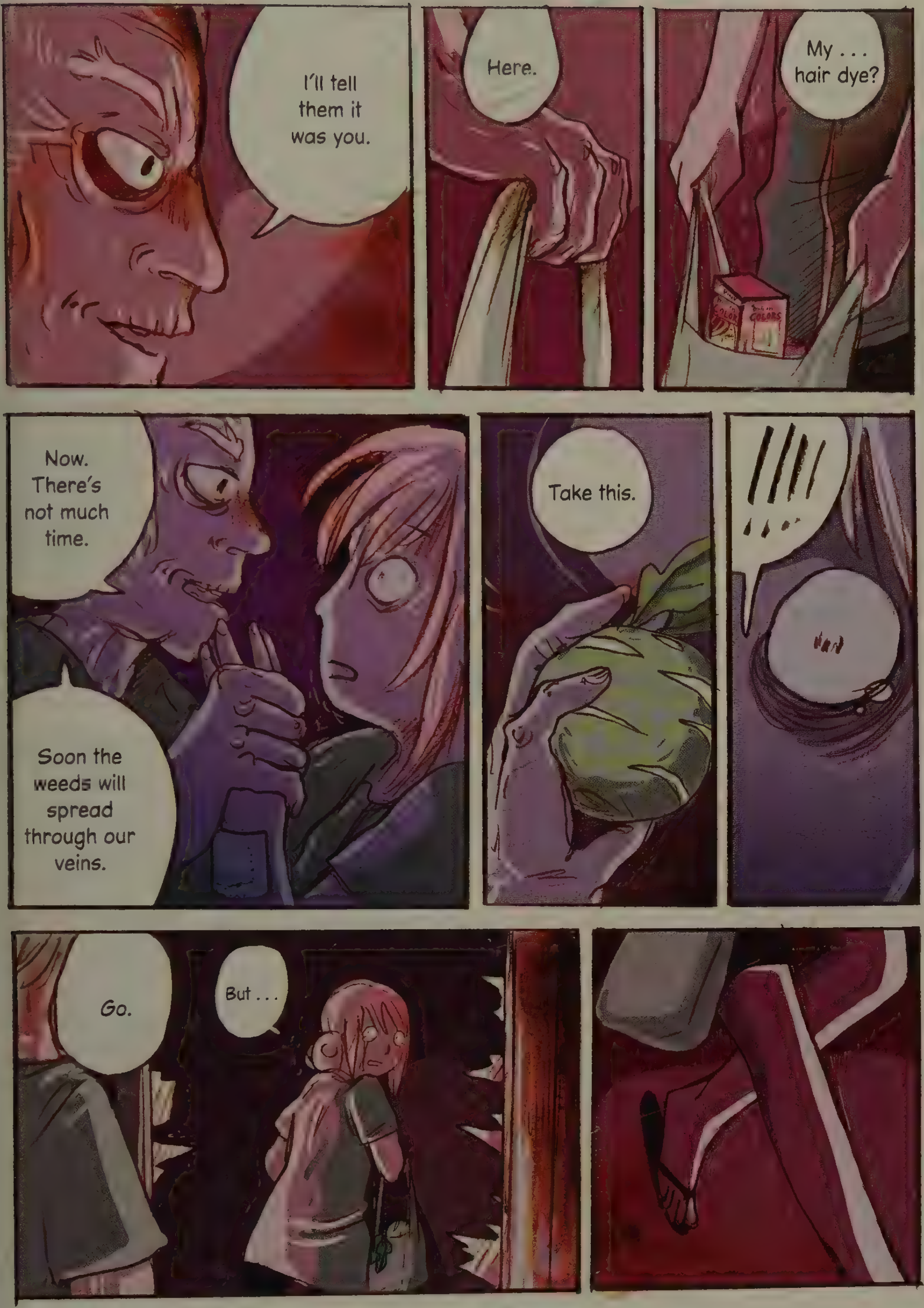


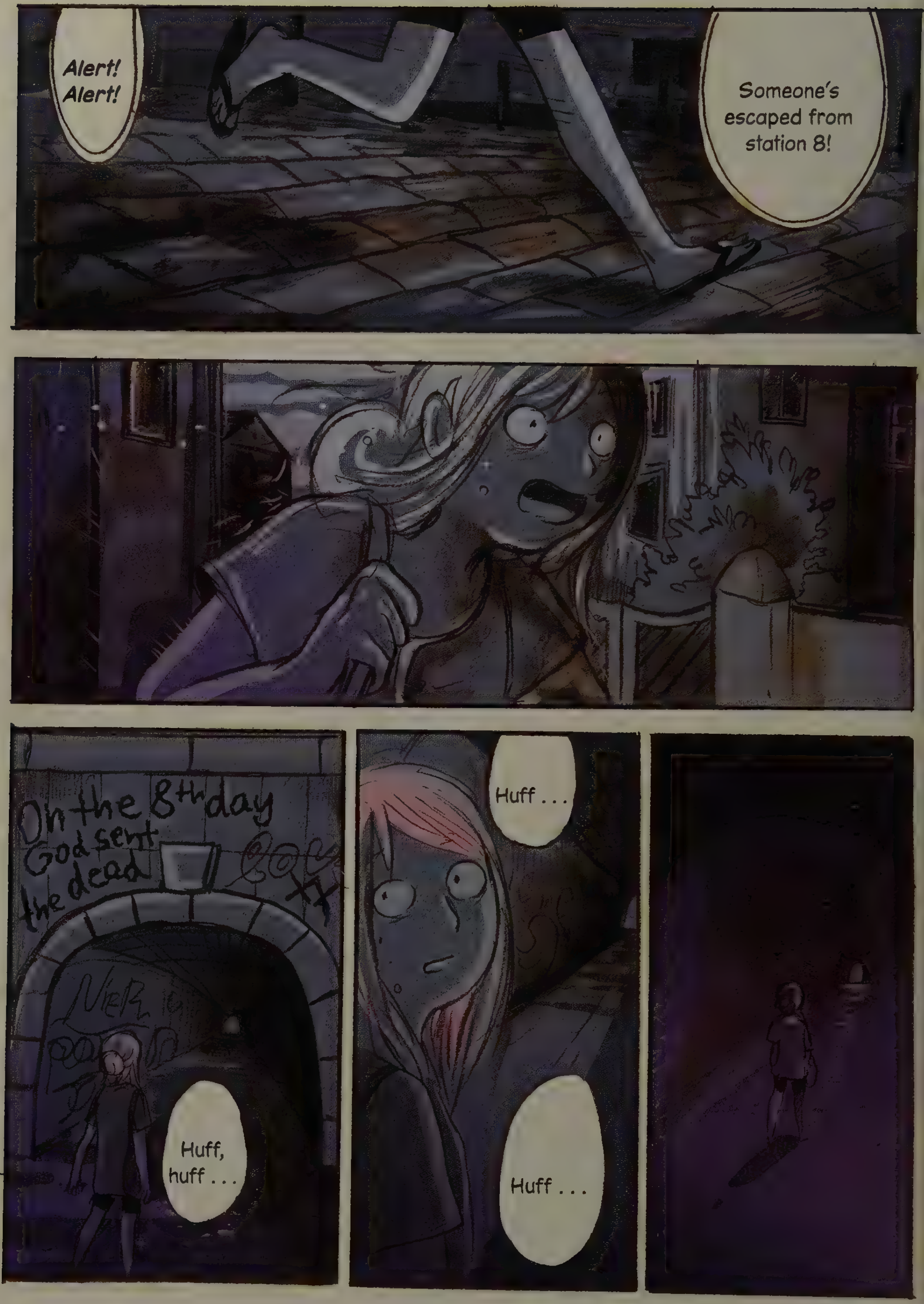

It's all right, darling.
You'll find peace here.
And soon no one outside will even remember who you are.
STATION 8

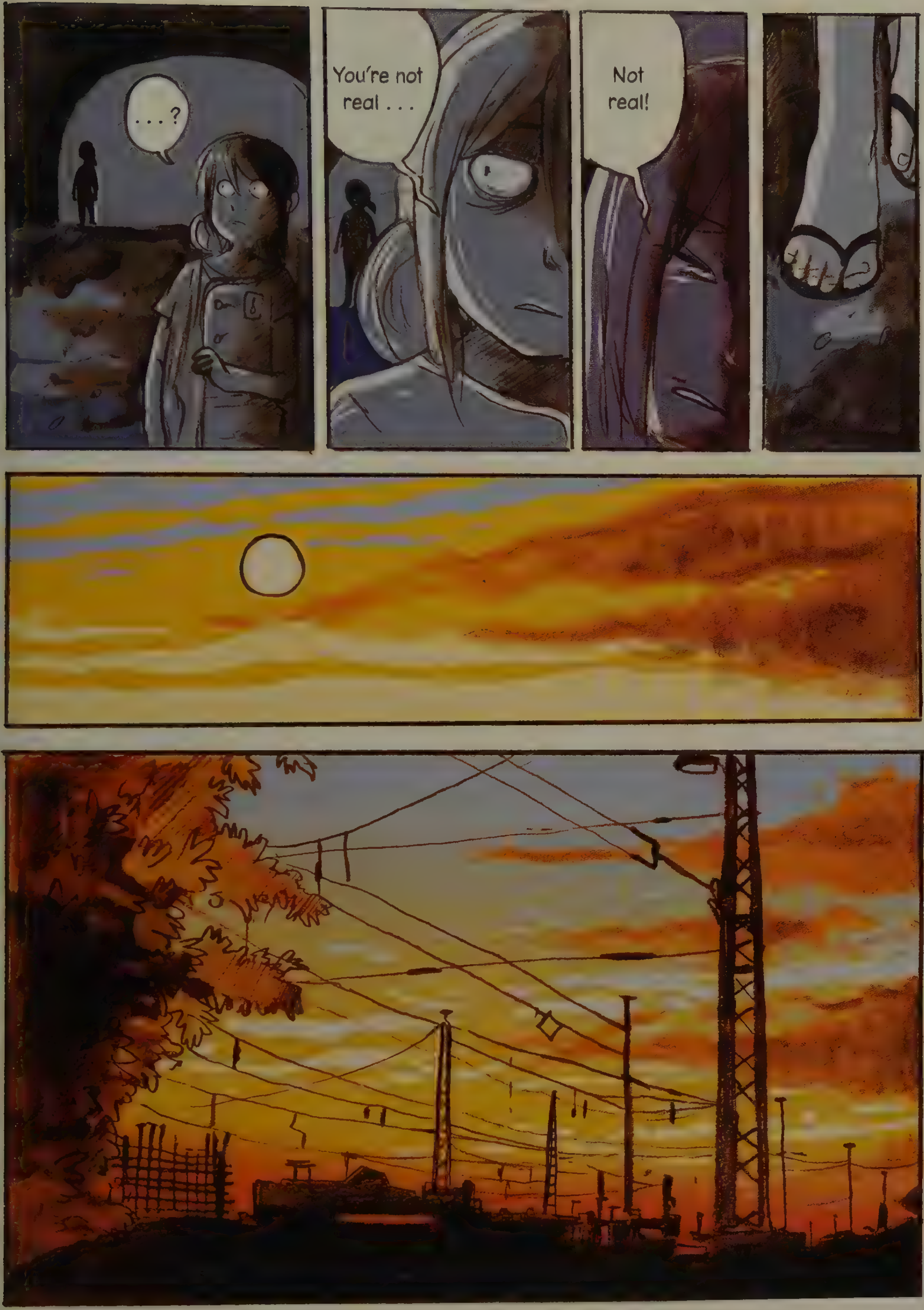


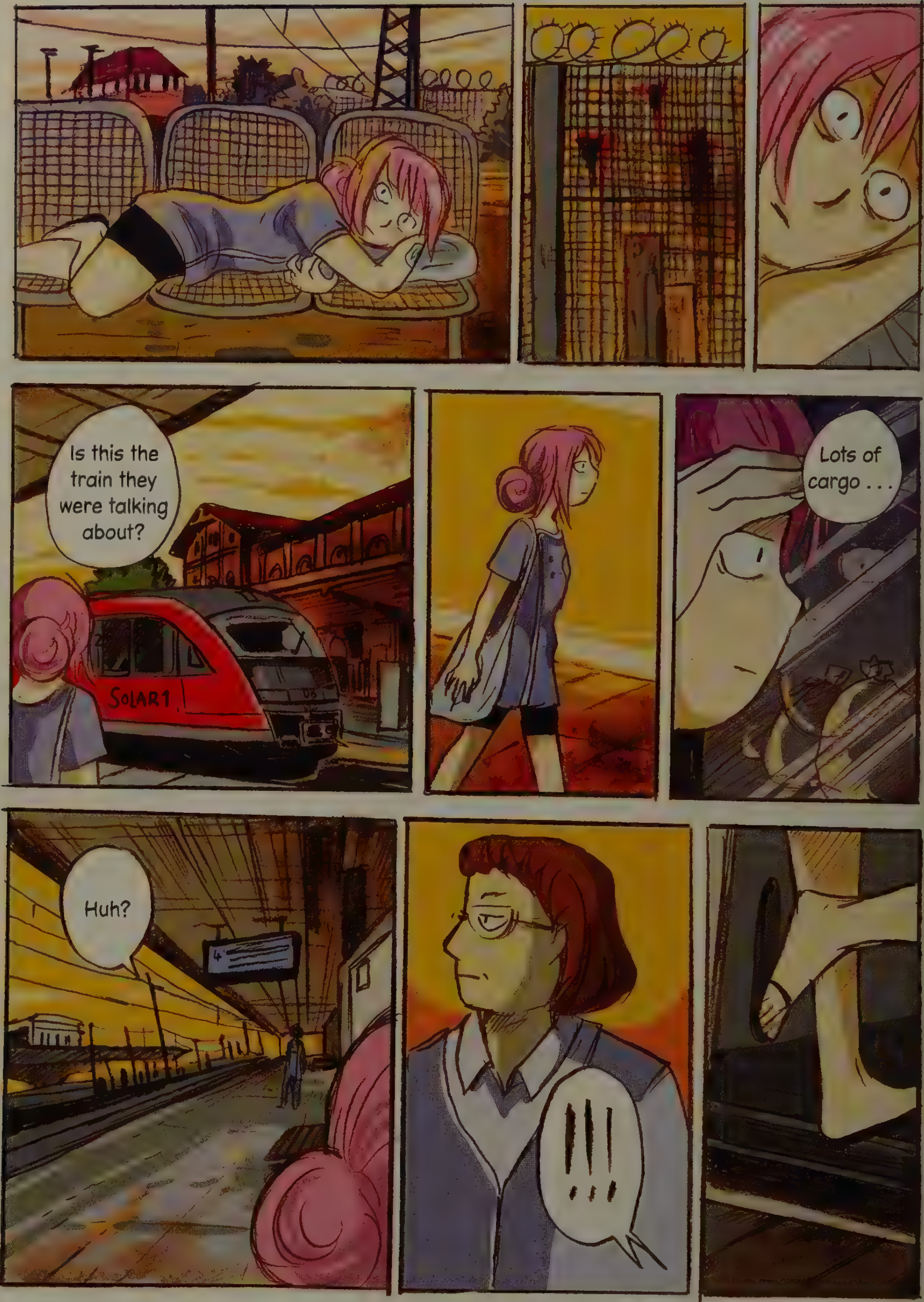

. . .
EbSB
I'm sorry! I didn't mean to!! I want my old room back.
It's so dark in here . . .
I'll be better from now on!
Please . . .
!!
I'll help you, kiddo.
What . . . what are you doing with that brick??
Whatever it is out there that won't let you rest . . . go and bury it.

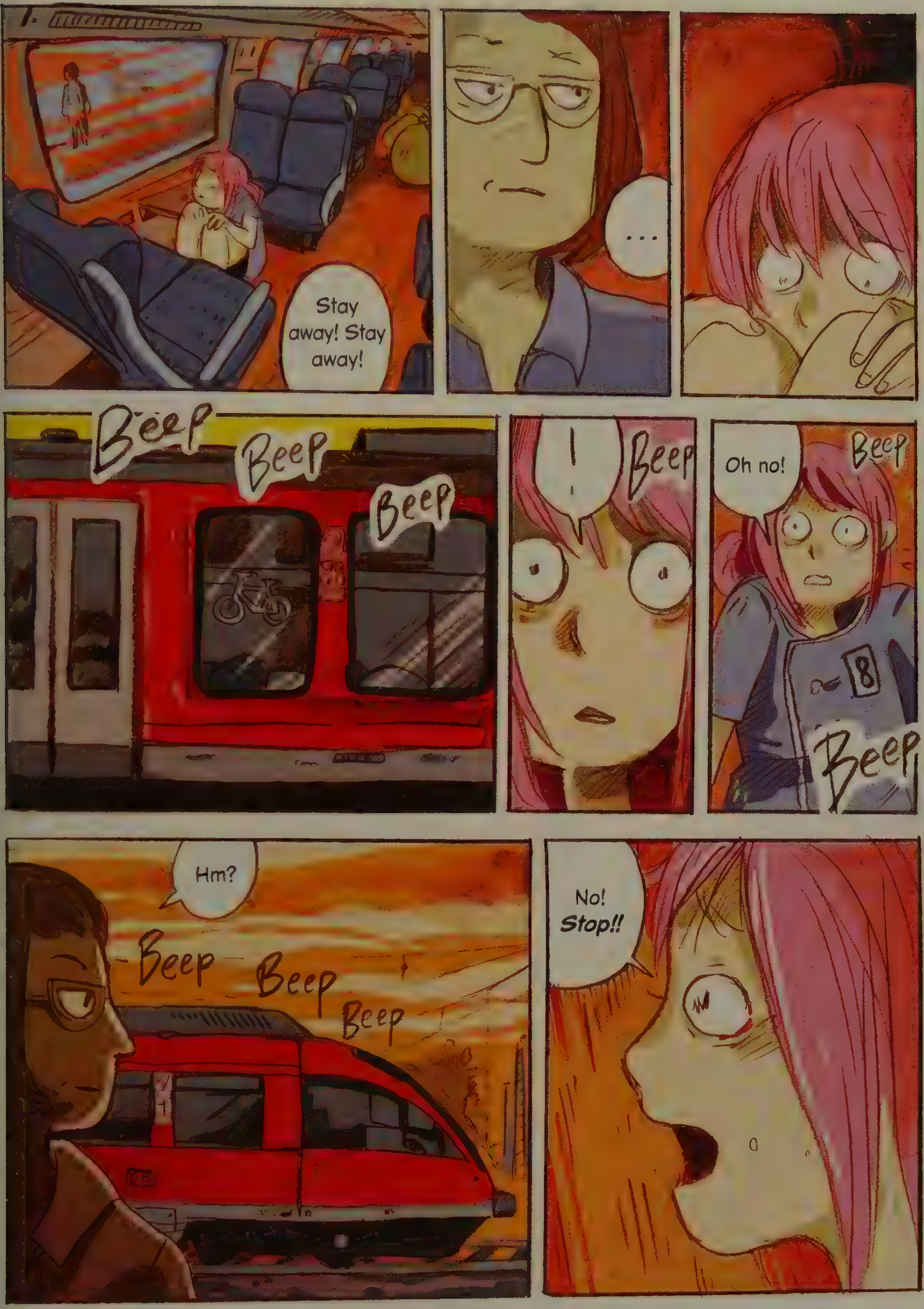

CRASH!!
AAAAAA!!
!!!!
The orderlies will come by soon.
If you don't leave now, you'll be here forever.
But . . . why? They'll punish you for this!

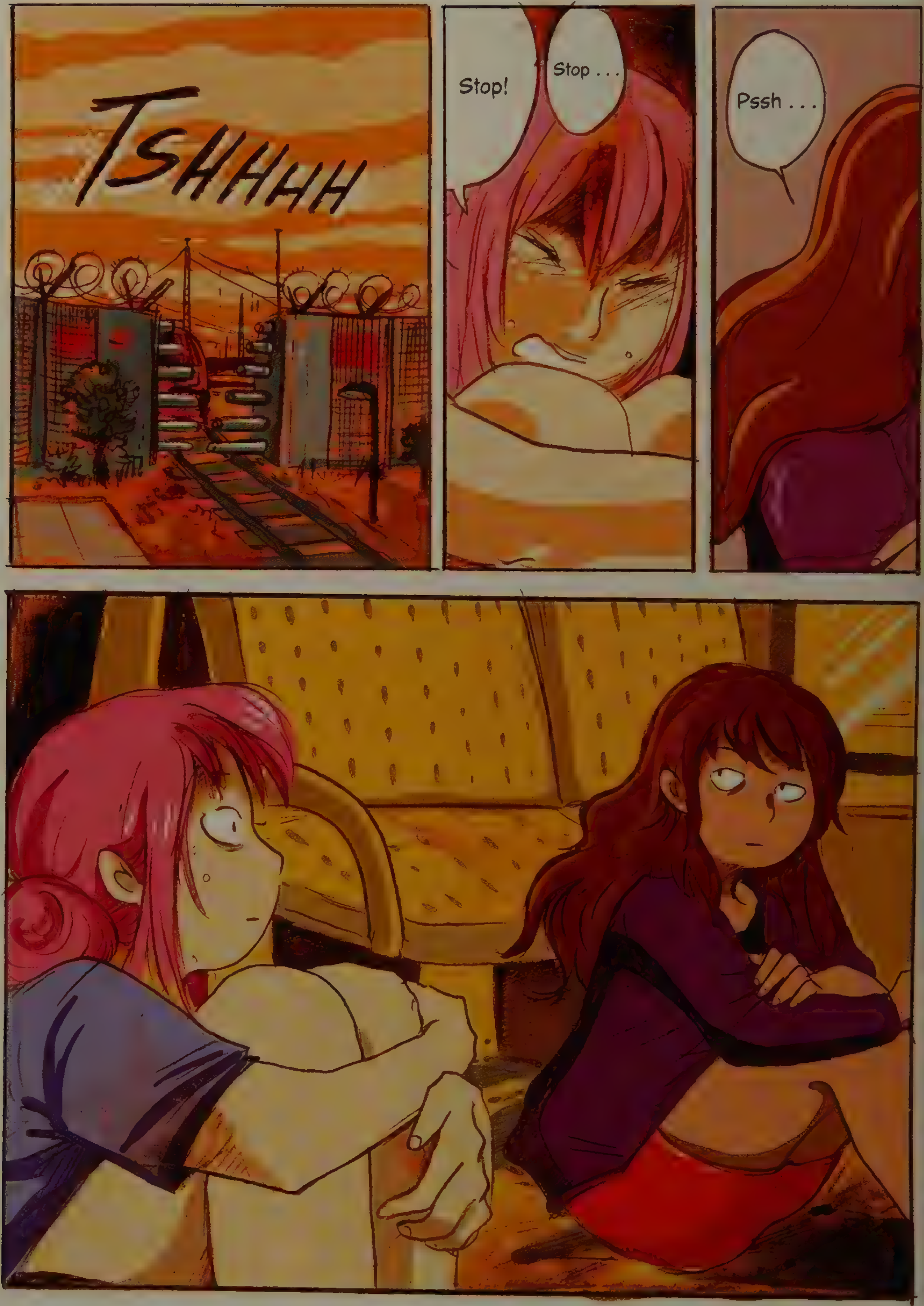

I'll tell them it was you.
Here.
My . . . hair dye?
COLOR
COLORS
Now. There's not much time.
Soon the weeds will spread through our veins.
Take this.
Go.
But . . .

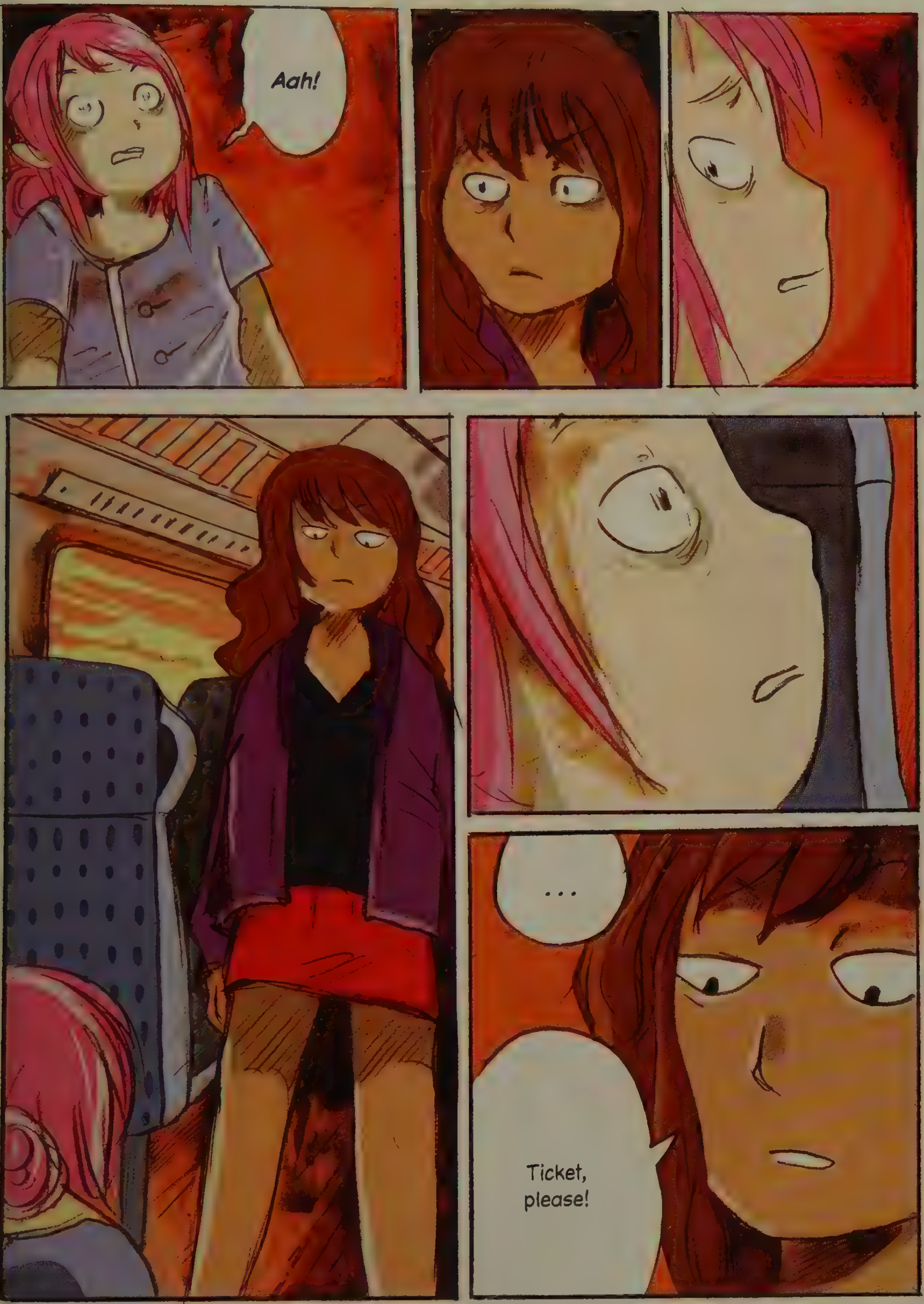

Alert! Alert!
Someone's escaped from station 8!
On the 8th day God sent the dead
NieR
Huff, huff . . .
Huff . . .
Huff . . .

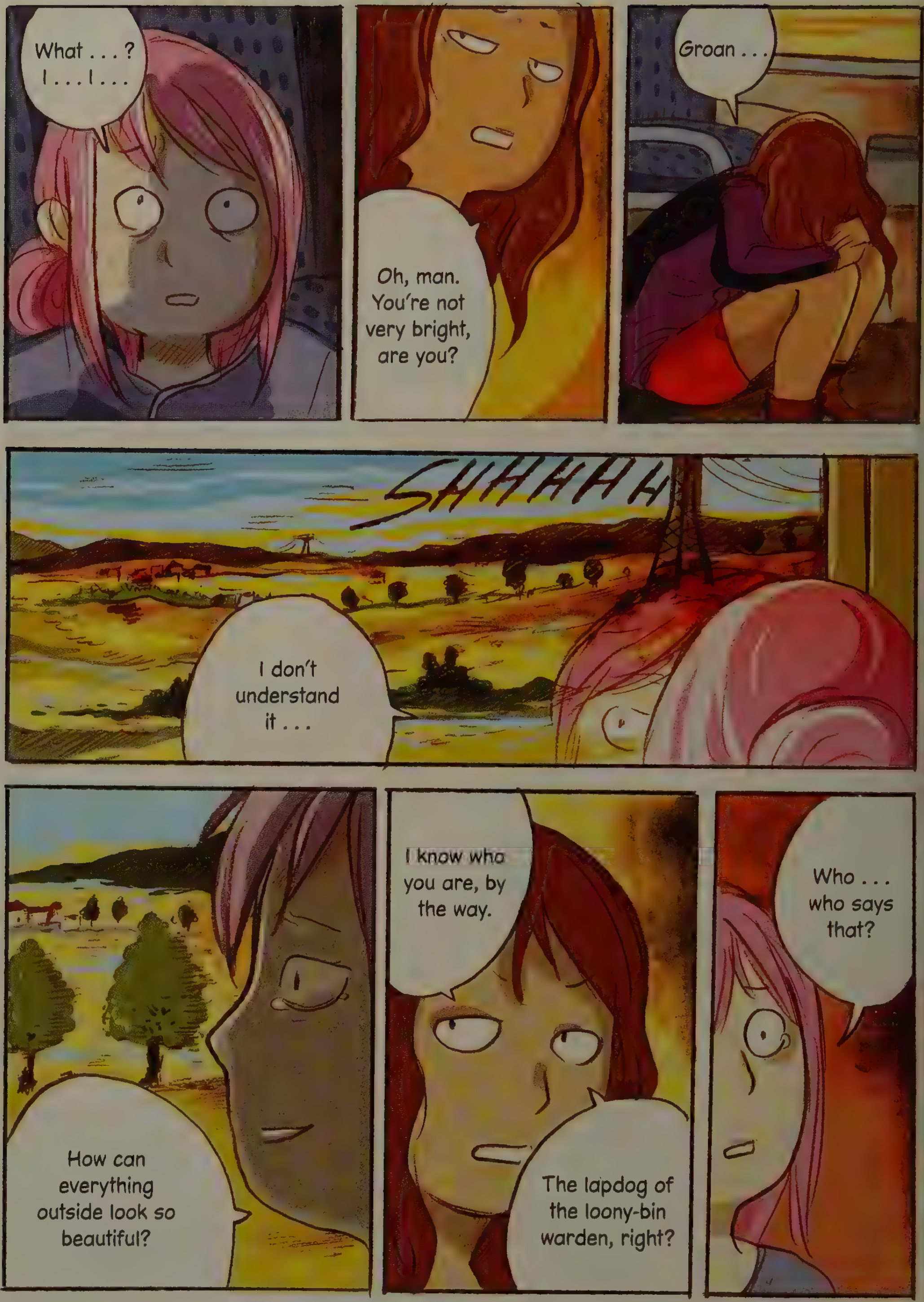

. . . ?
You're not real . . .
Not real!

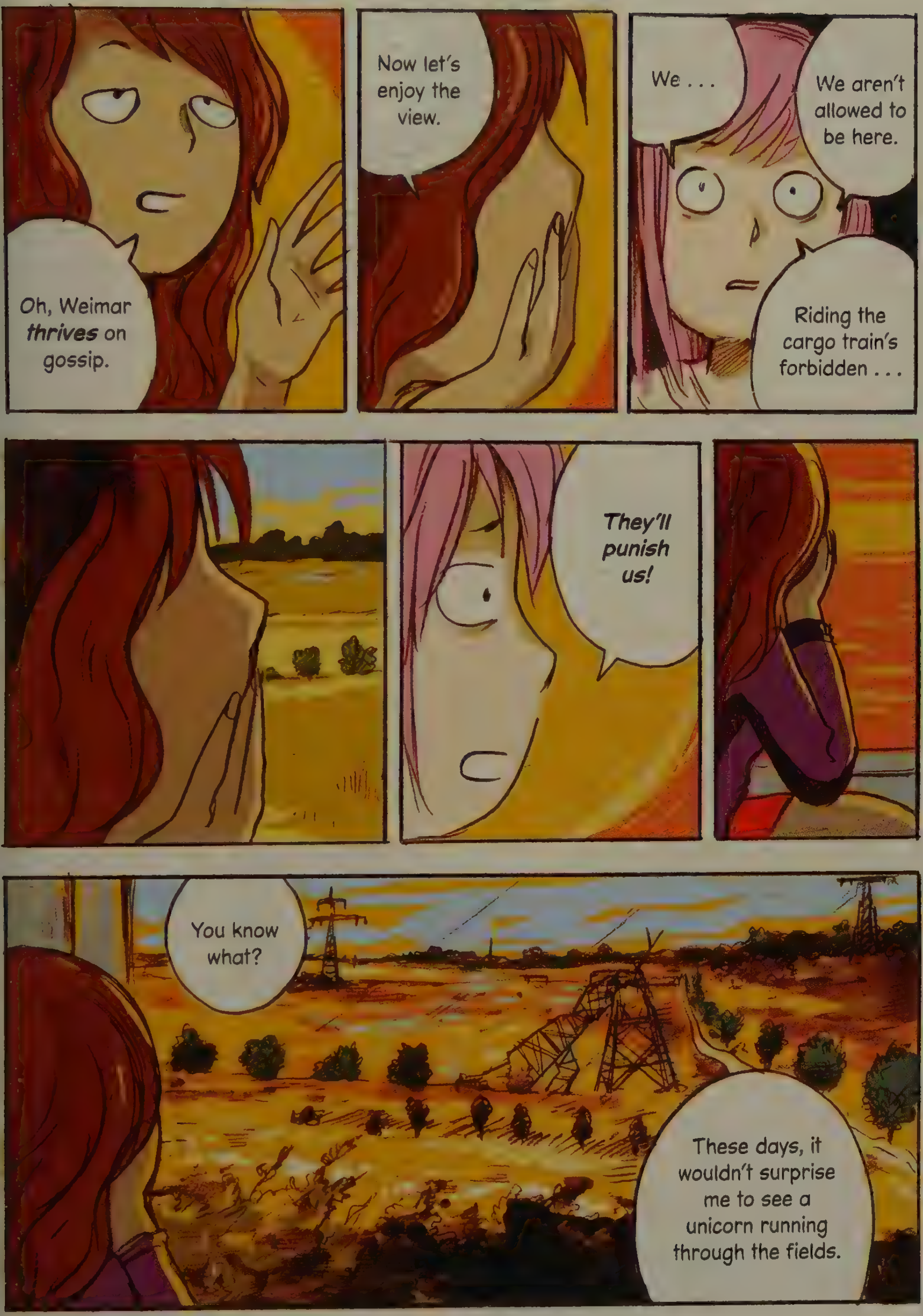

Is this the train they were talking about?
SOLAR1
Lots of cargo . . .
Huh?
!!!

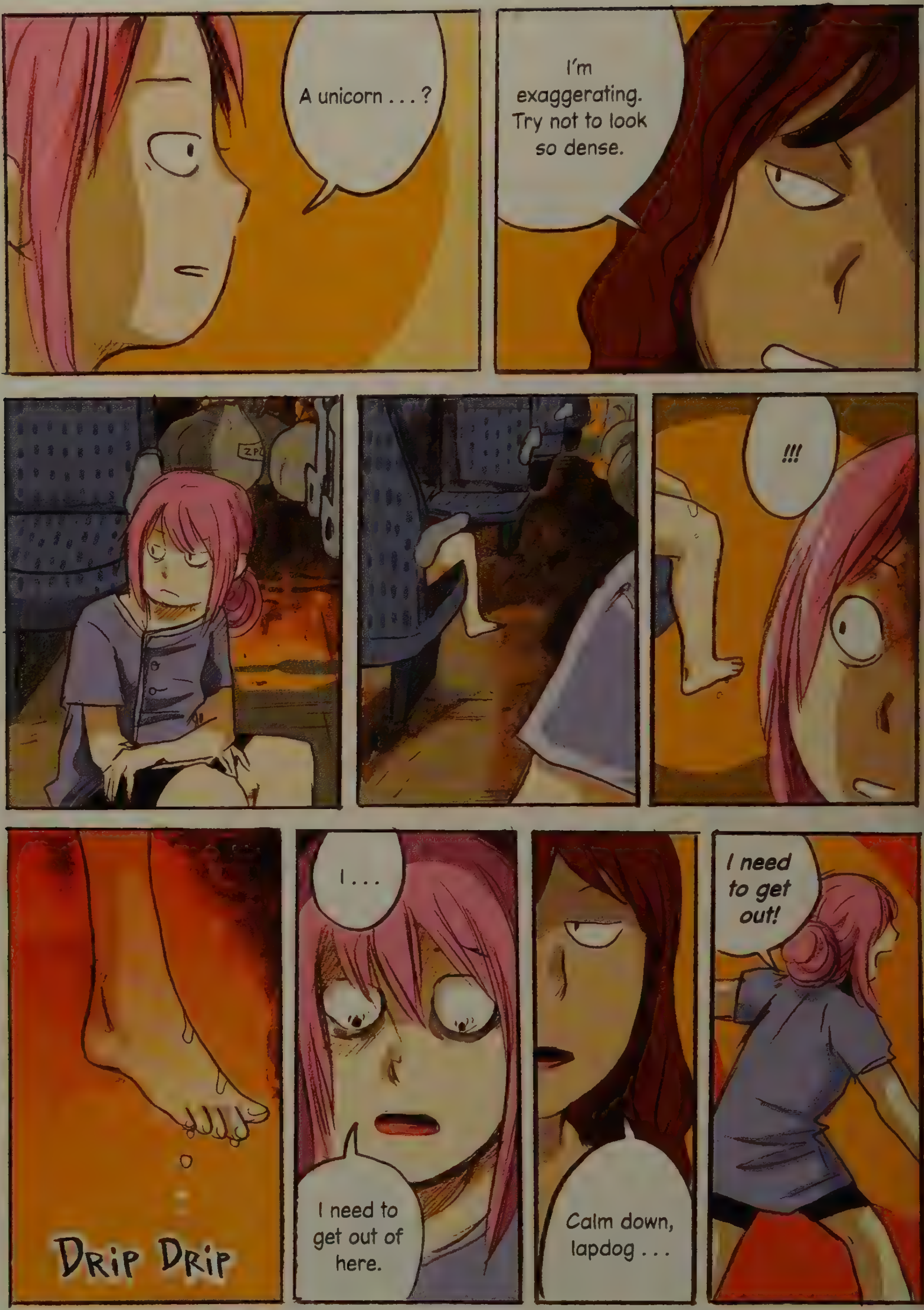

Stay away! Stay away!
...
Beep
Beep
Beep
!
Beep
Oh no!
Beep
Beep
Hm?
Beep
Beep
Beep
No! Stop!!

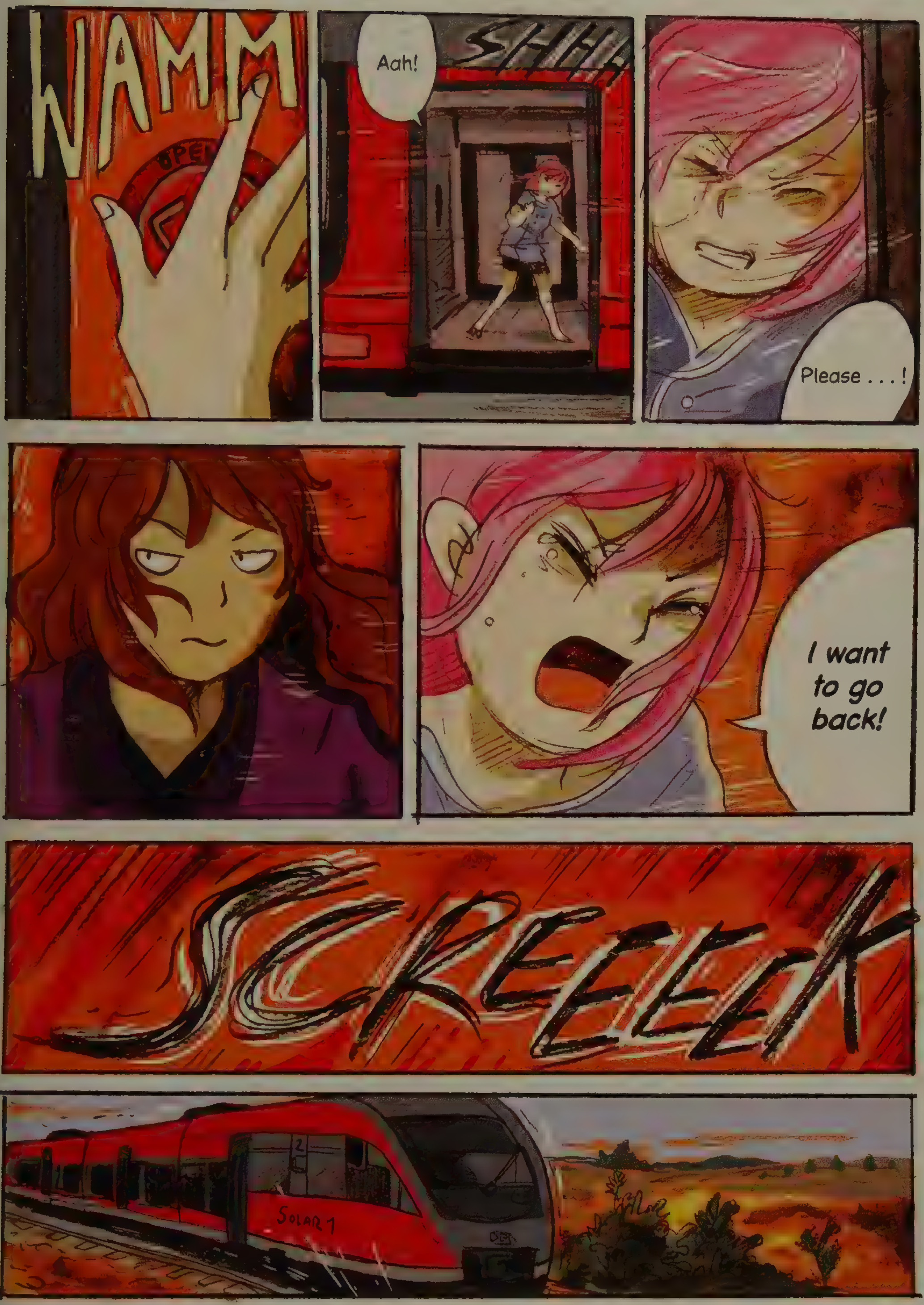

TSHHHH
Stop!
Stop . . .
Pssh . . .

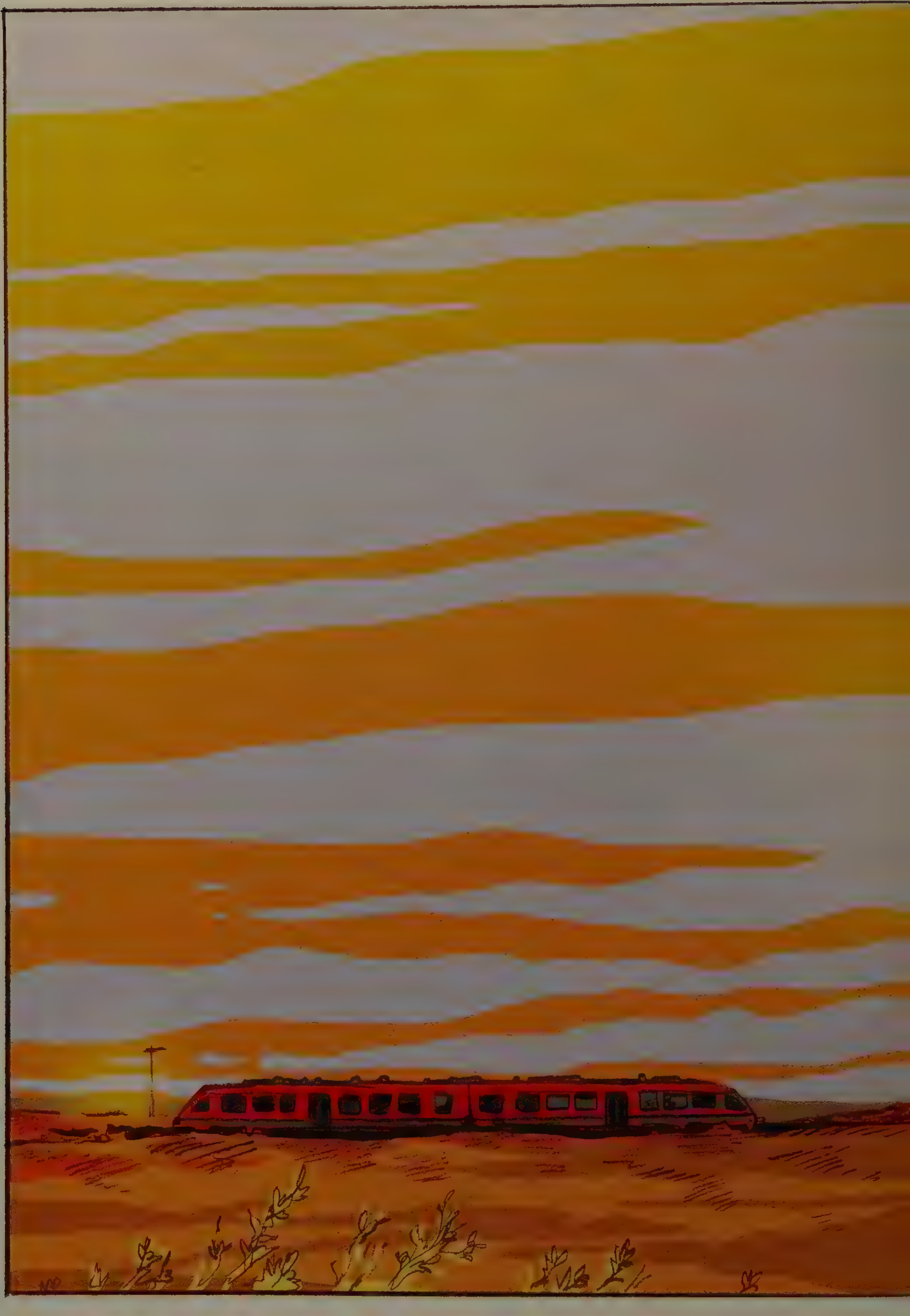

Aah!
. . .
Ticket, please!

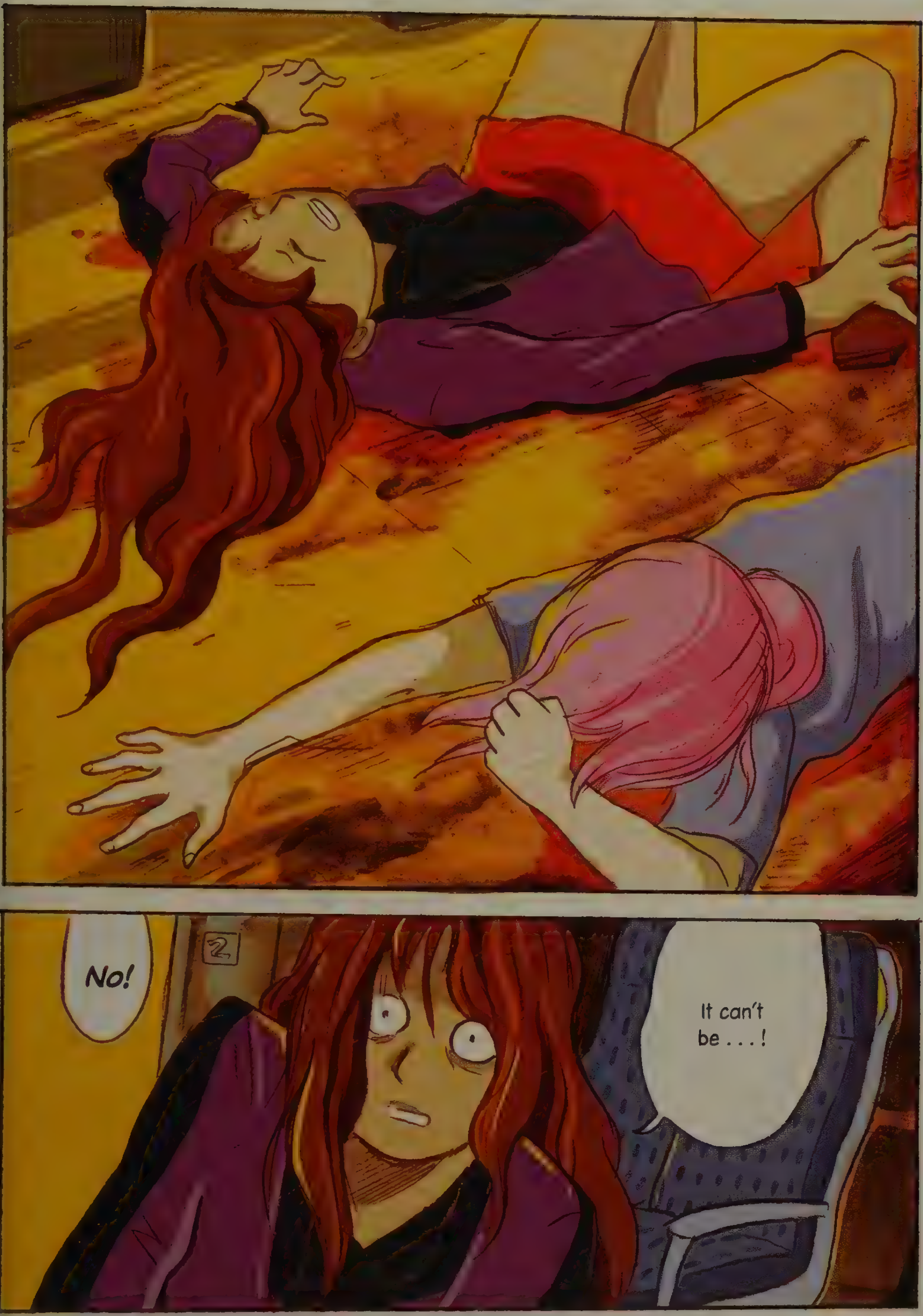

What . . . ? I . . . I . . .
Oh, man. You're not very bright, are you?
Groan . . .
SHHHHH
I don't understand it . . .
How can everything outside look so beautiful?
I know who you are, by the way.
The lapdog of the loony-bin warden, right?
Who . . . who says that?

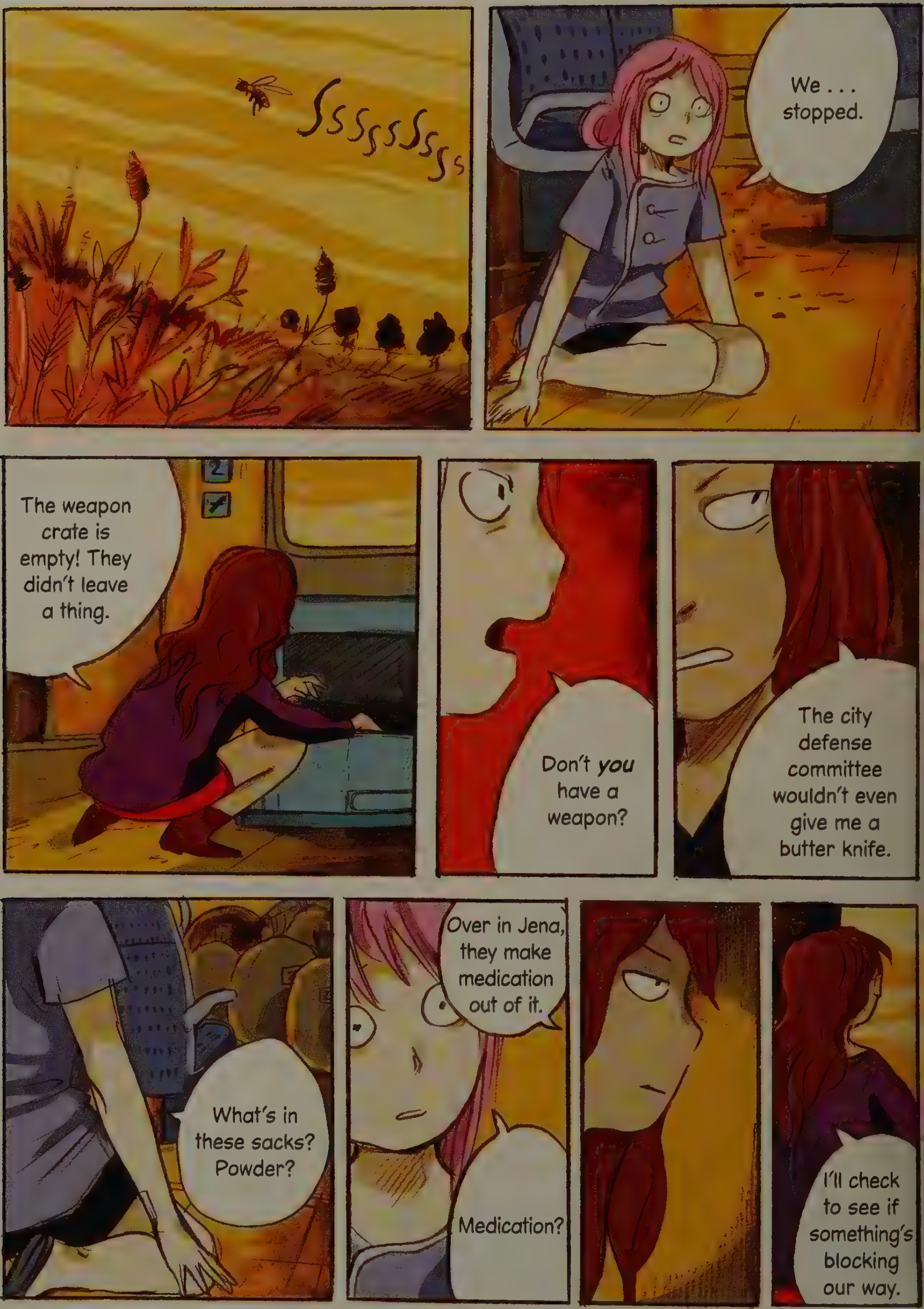

Oh, Weimar *thrives* on gossip.
Now let's enjoy the view.
We . . .
We aren't allowed to be here.
Riding the cargo train's forbidden . . .
They'll punish us!
You know what?
These days, it wouldn't surprise me to see a unicorn running through the fields.

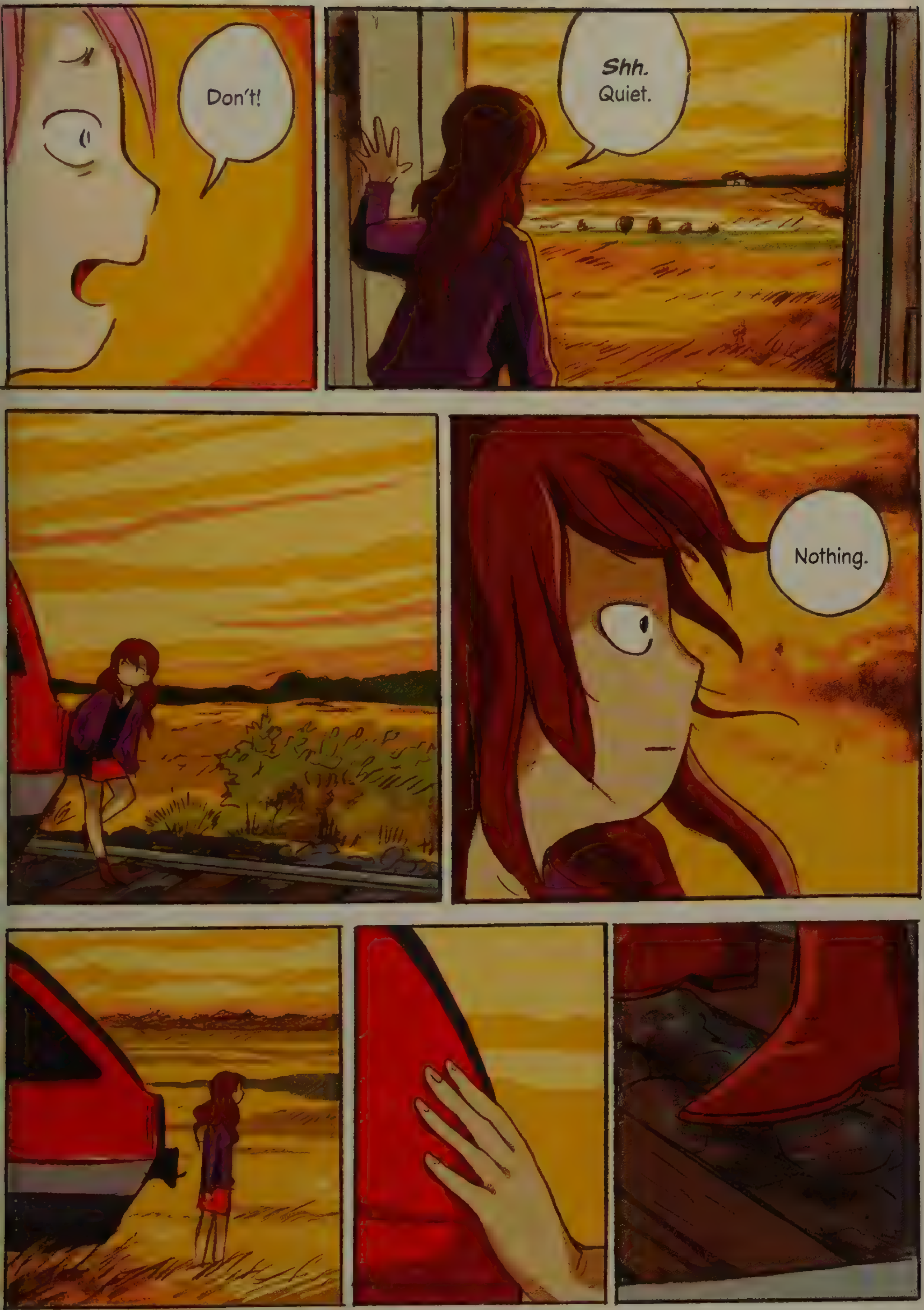

A unicorn . . . ?
I'm exaggerating. Try not to look so dense.
ZPL
!!!
DRIP DRIP
I . . .
I need to get out of here.
Calm down, lapdog . . .
I need to get out!

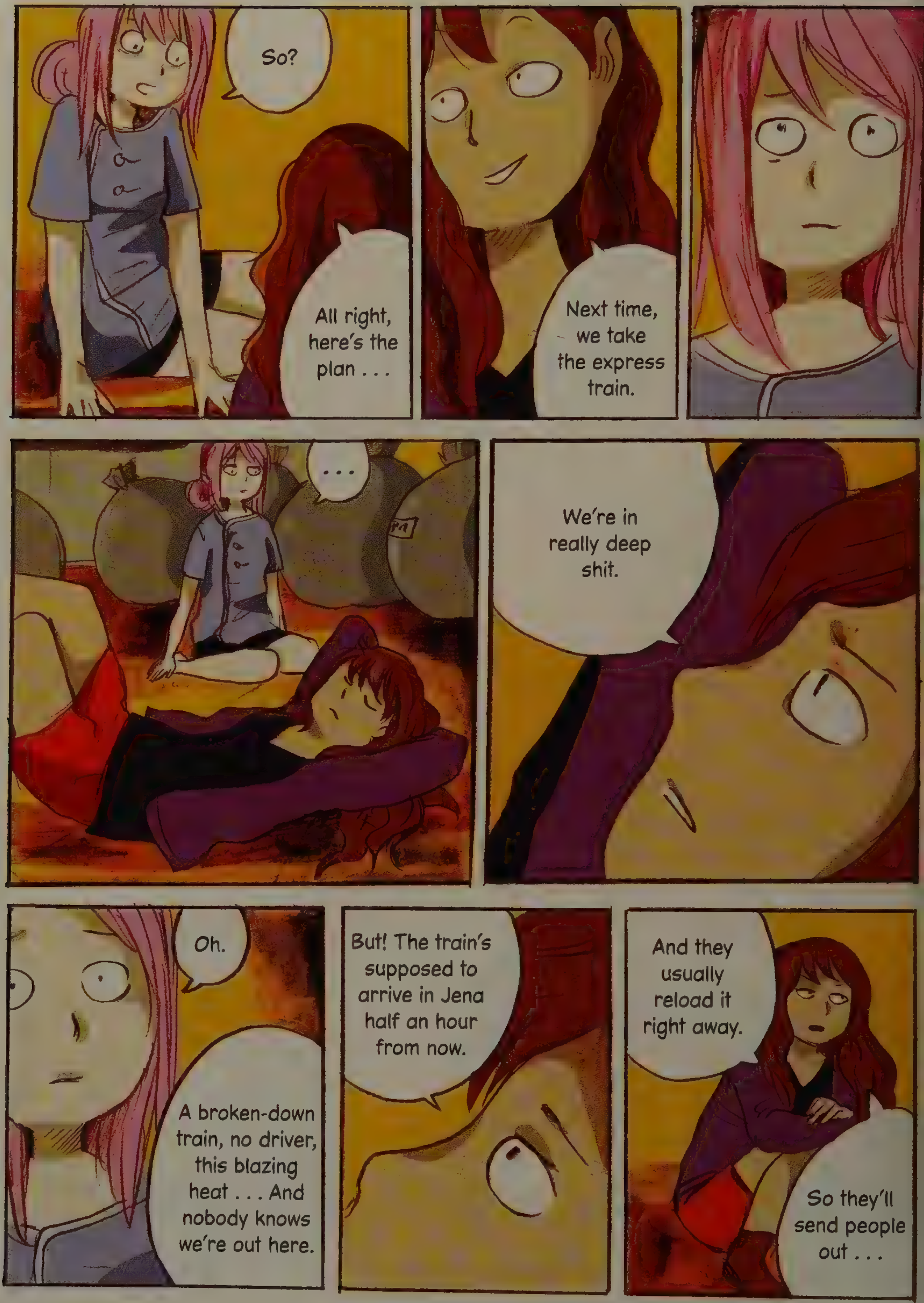

WAMM
OPE
Aah!
SHH
Please . . .!
I want to go back!
SCREEEEK
2
1
SOLAR 1
DB

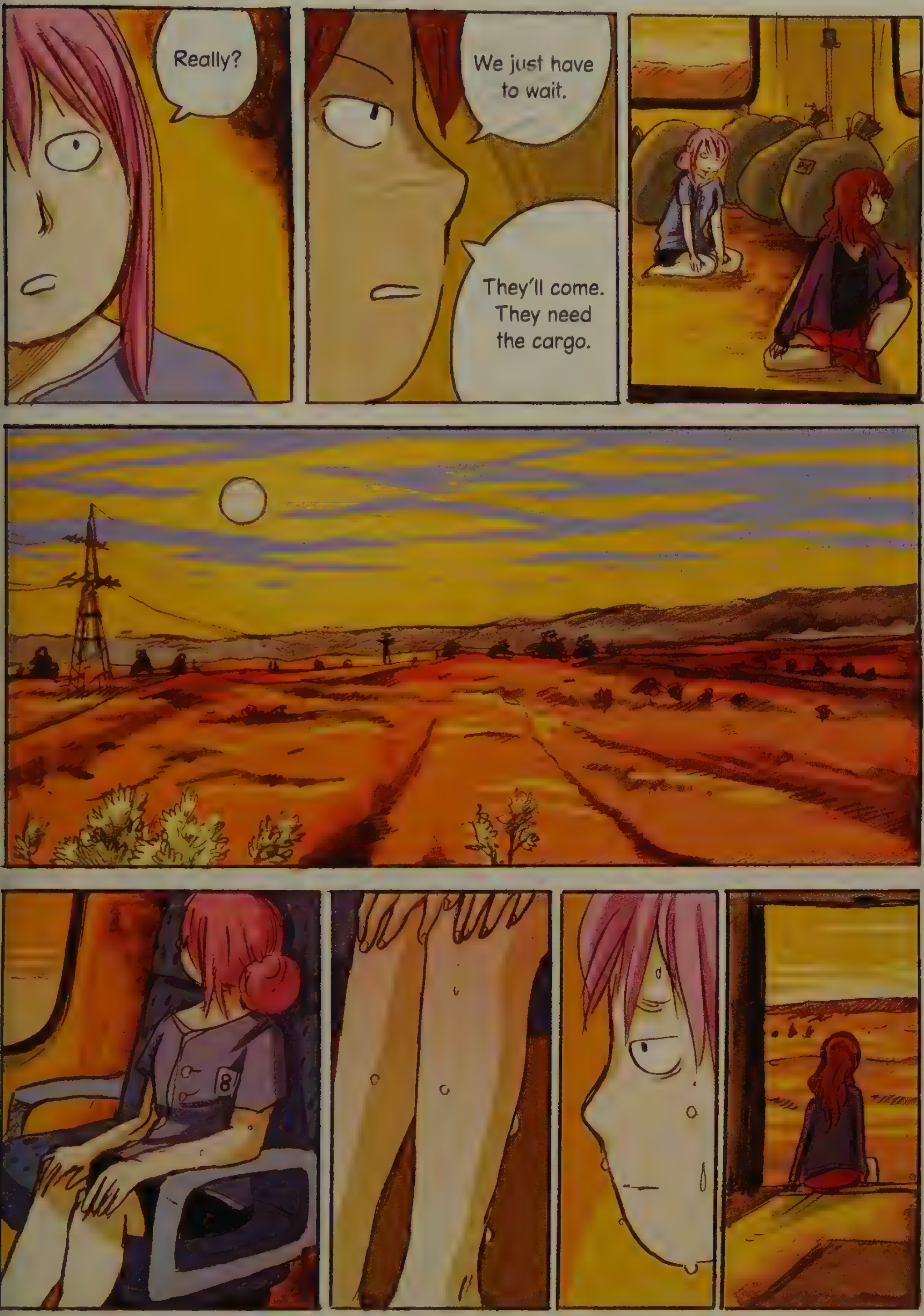


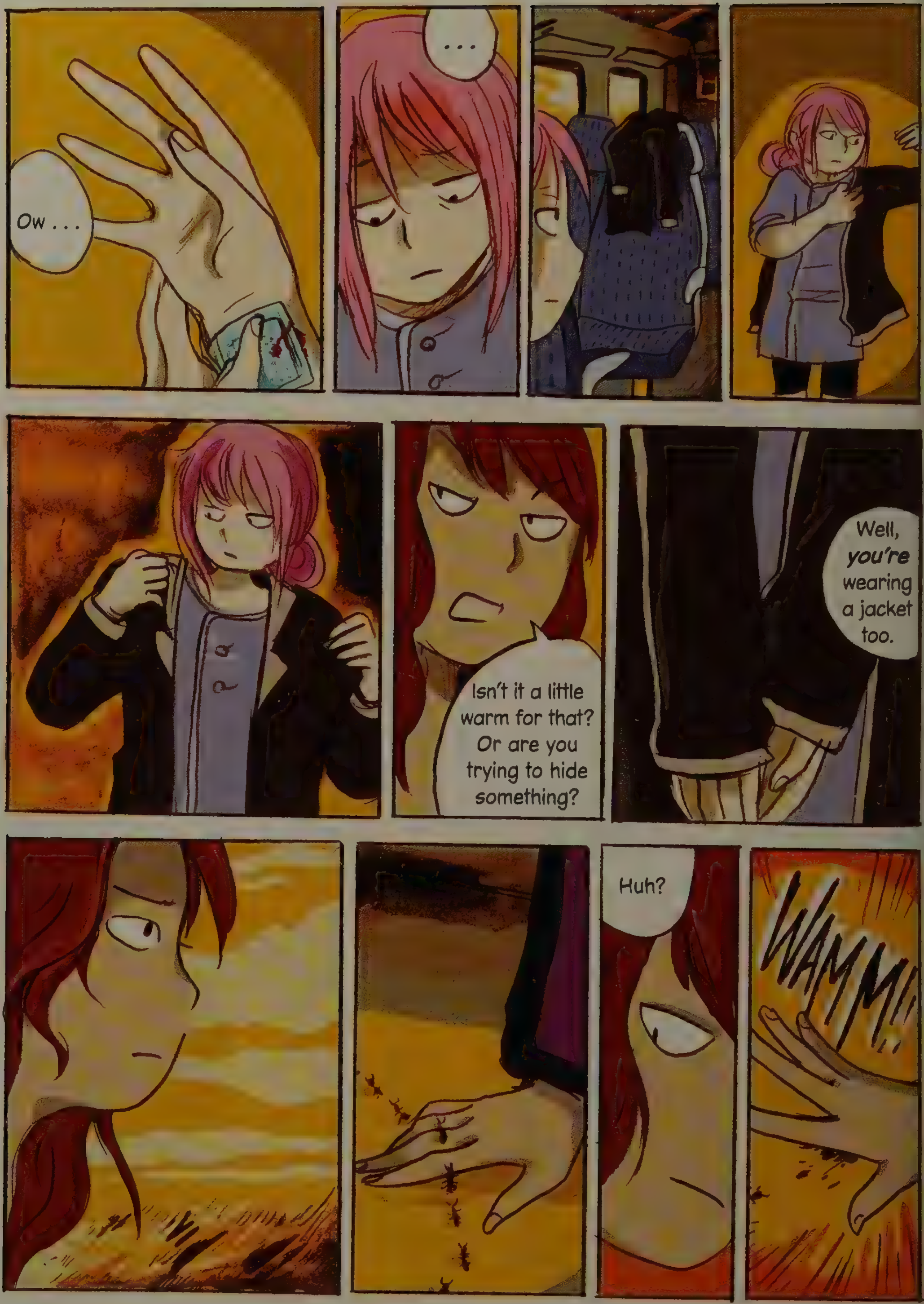

No!
2
It can't be . . . !

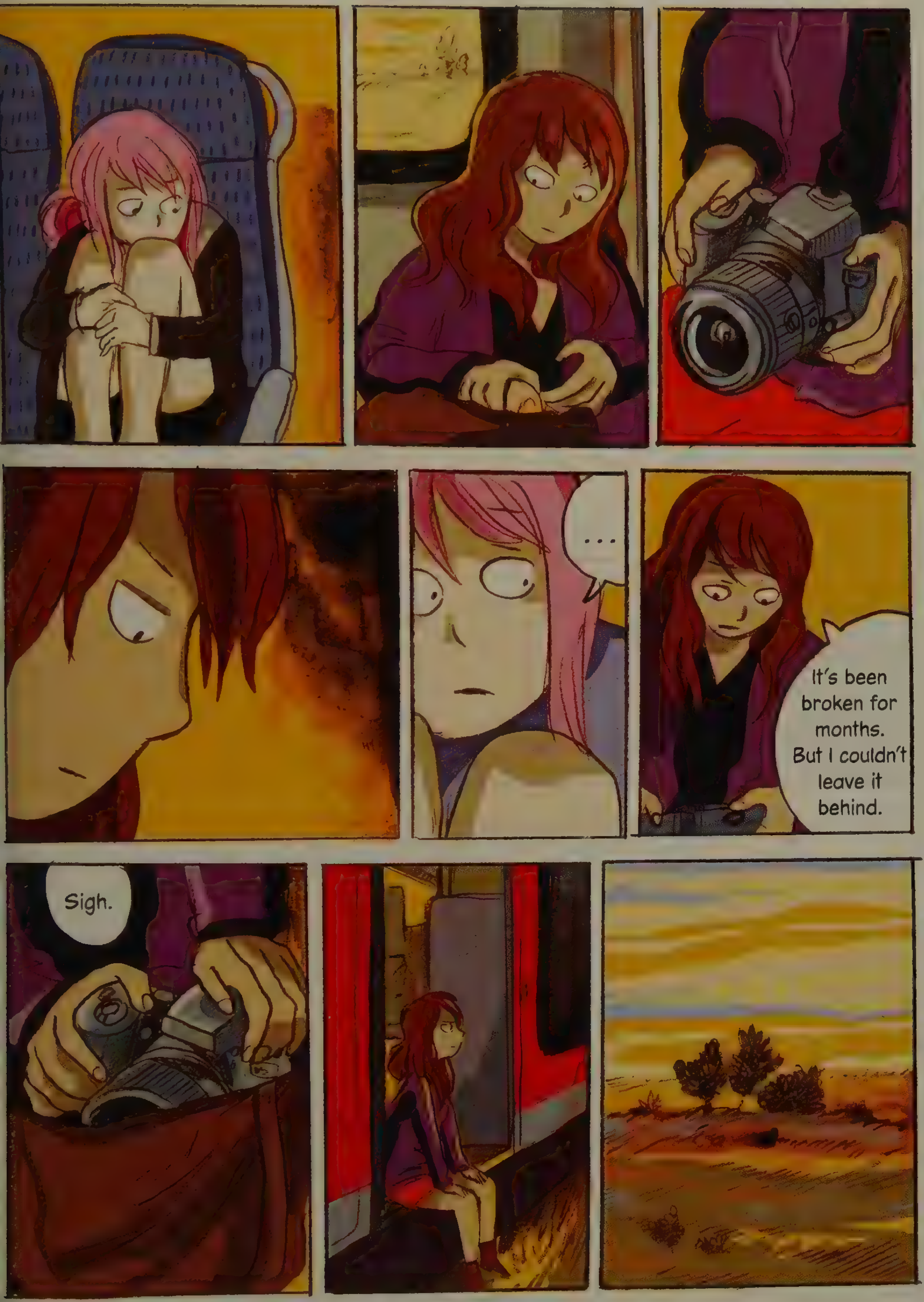

Ssssssssss
We . . . stopped.
The weapon crate is empty! They didn't leave a thing.
Don't *you* have a weapon?
The city defense committee wouldn't even give me a butter knife.
What's in these sacks? Powder?
Over in Jena, they make medication out of it.
Medication?
I'll check to see if something's blocking our way.

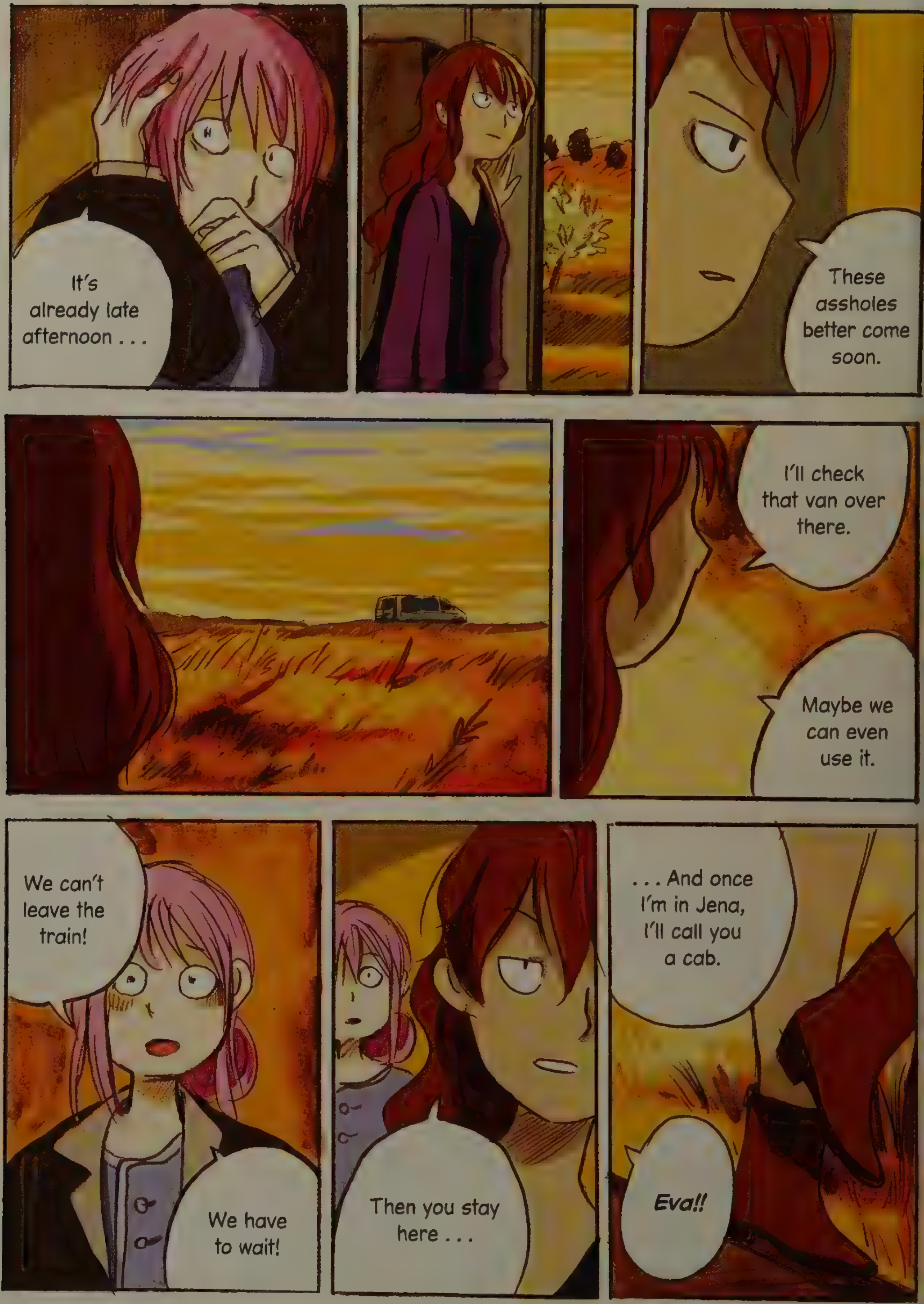

Don't!
Shh. Quiet.
Nothing.

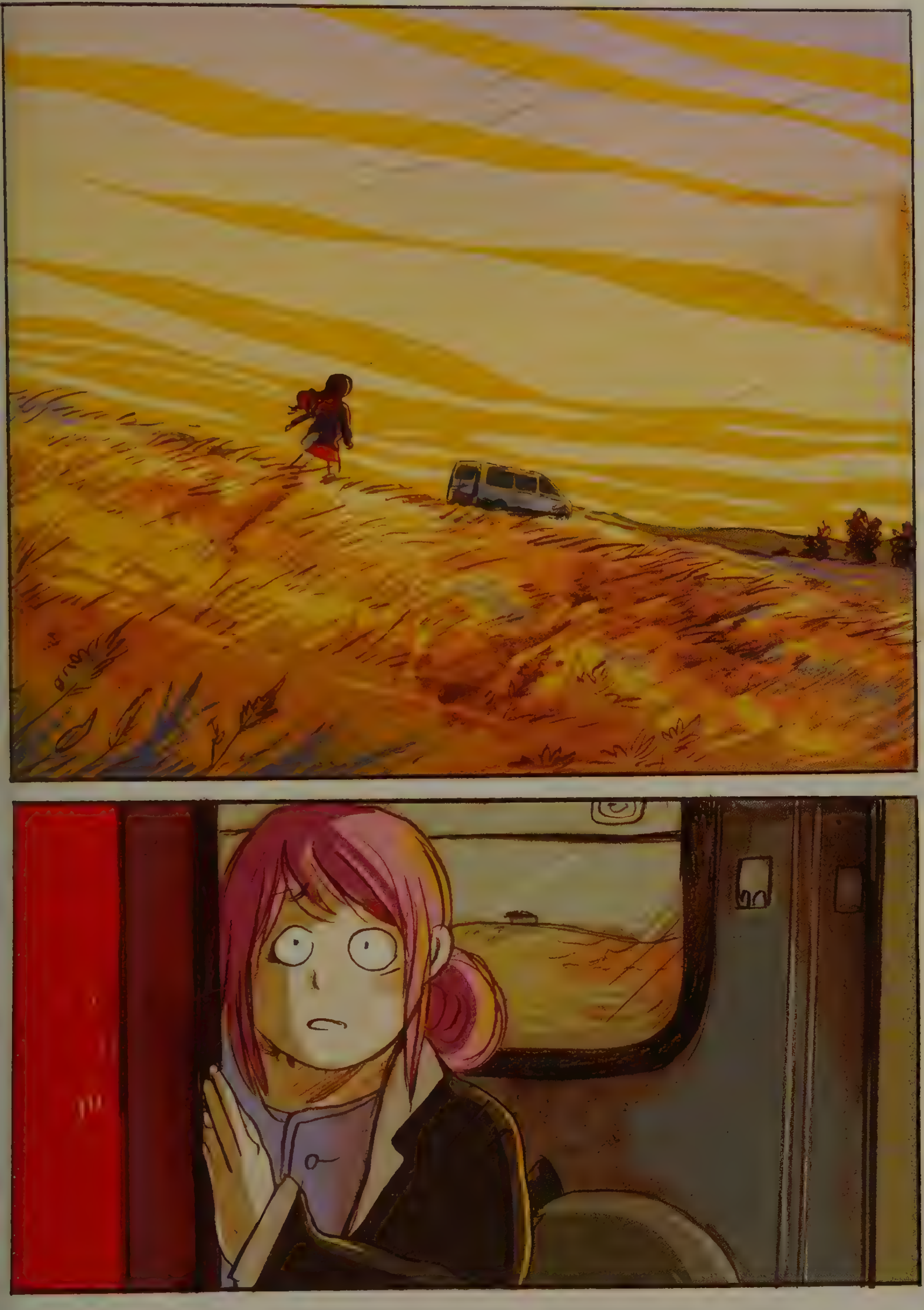

So?
All right, here's the plan . . .
Next time, we take the express train.
. . .
We're in really deep shit.
Oh.
A broken-down train, no driver, this blazing heat . . . And nobody knows we're out here.
But! The train's supposed to arrive in Jena half an hour from now.
And they usually reload it right away.
So they'll send people out . . .

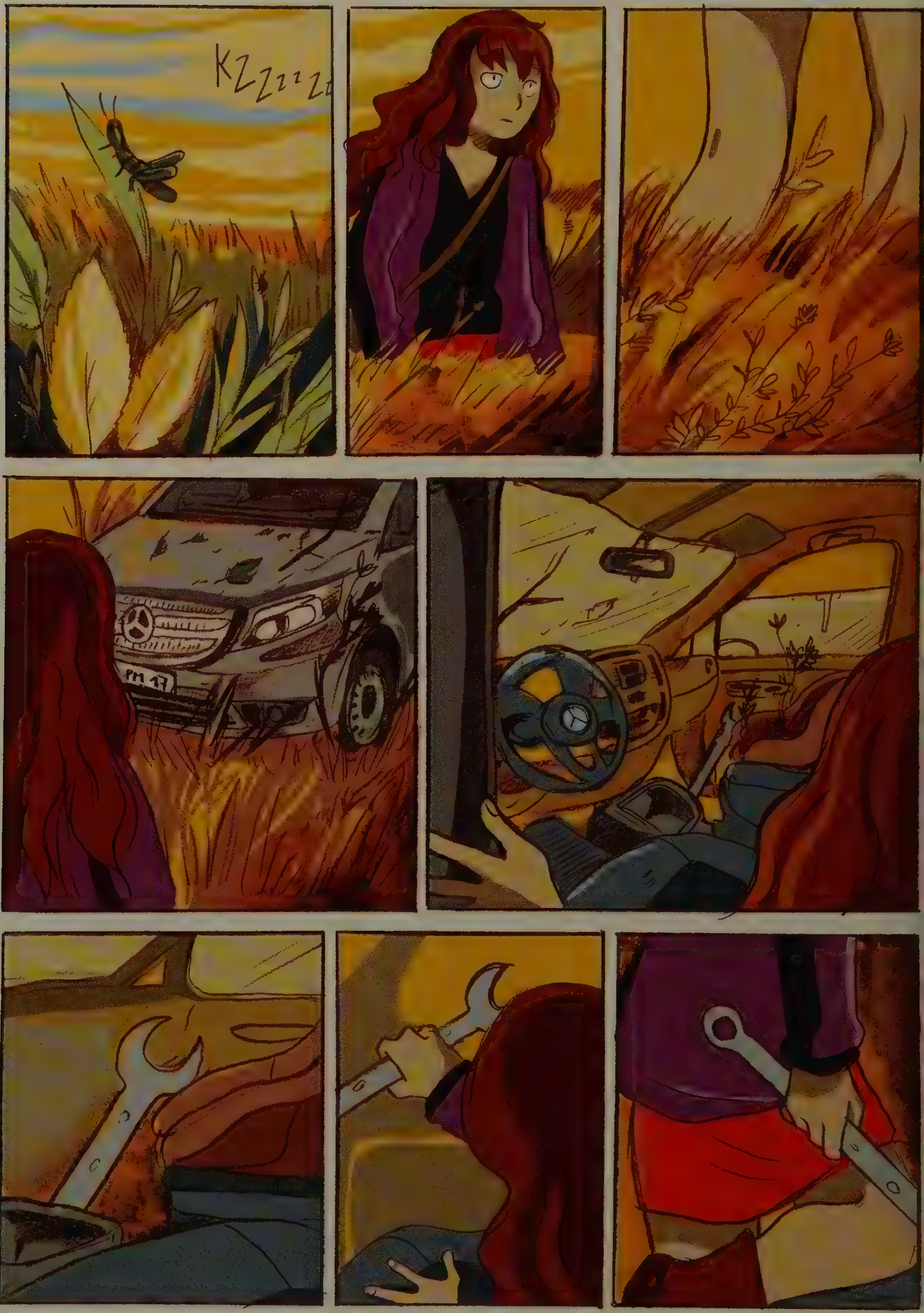

Really?
We just have to wait.
They'll come. They need the cargo.

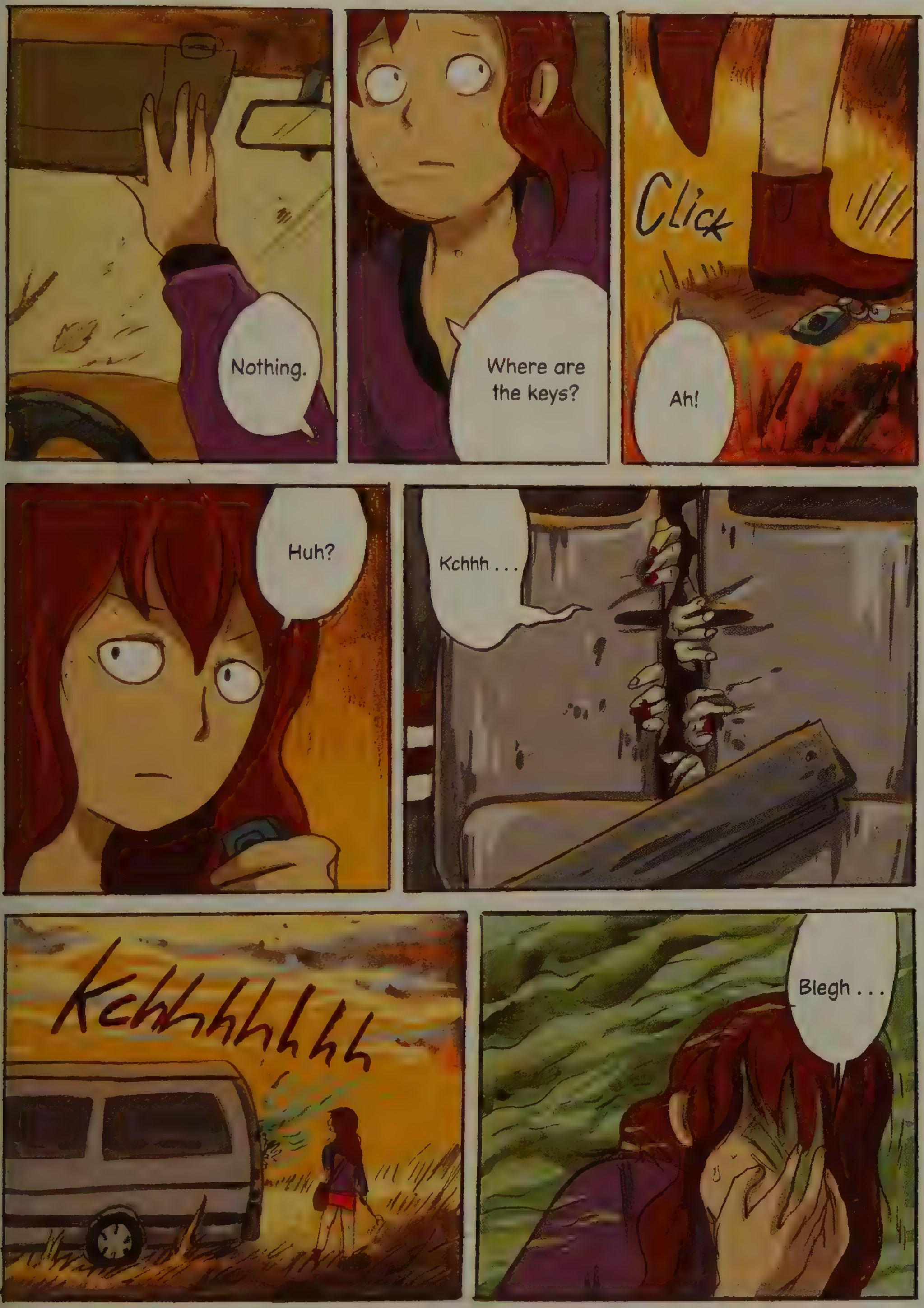

Ow . . .
. . .
Isn't it a little warm for that? Or are you trying to hide something?
Well, you're wearing a jacket too.
Huh?
WAMM!!

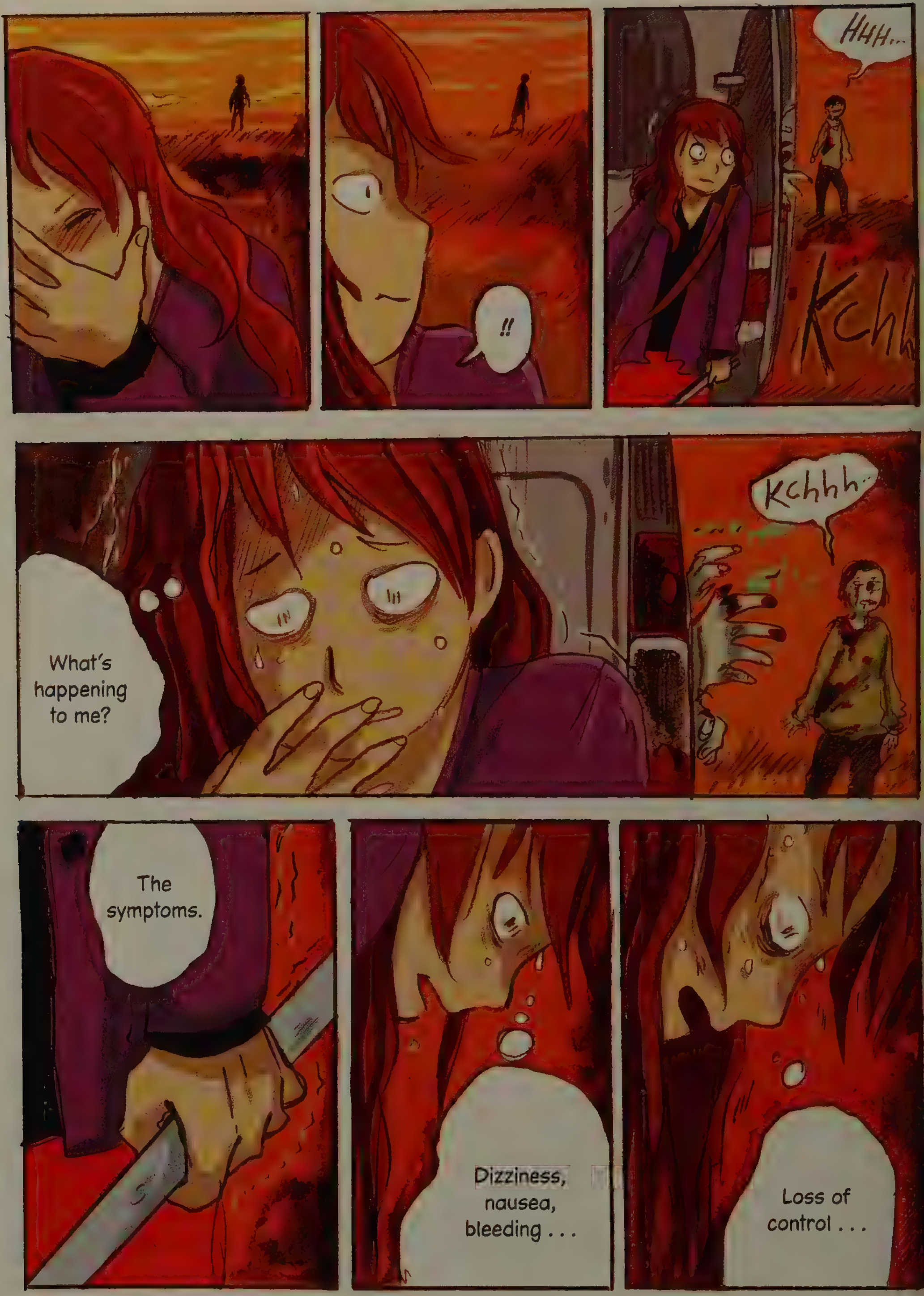

...
It's been broken for months. But I couldn't leave it behind.
Sigh.

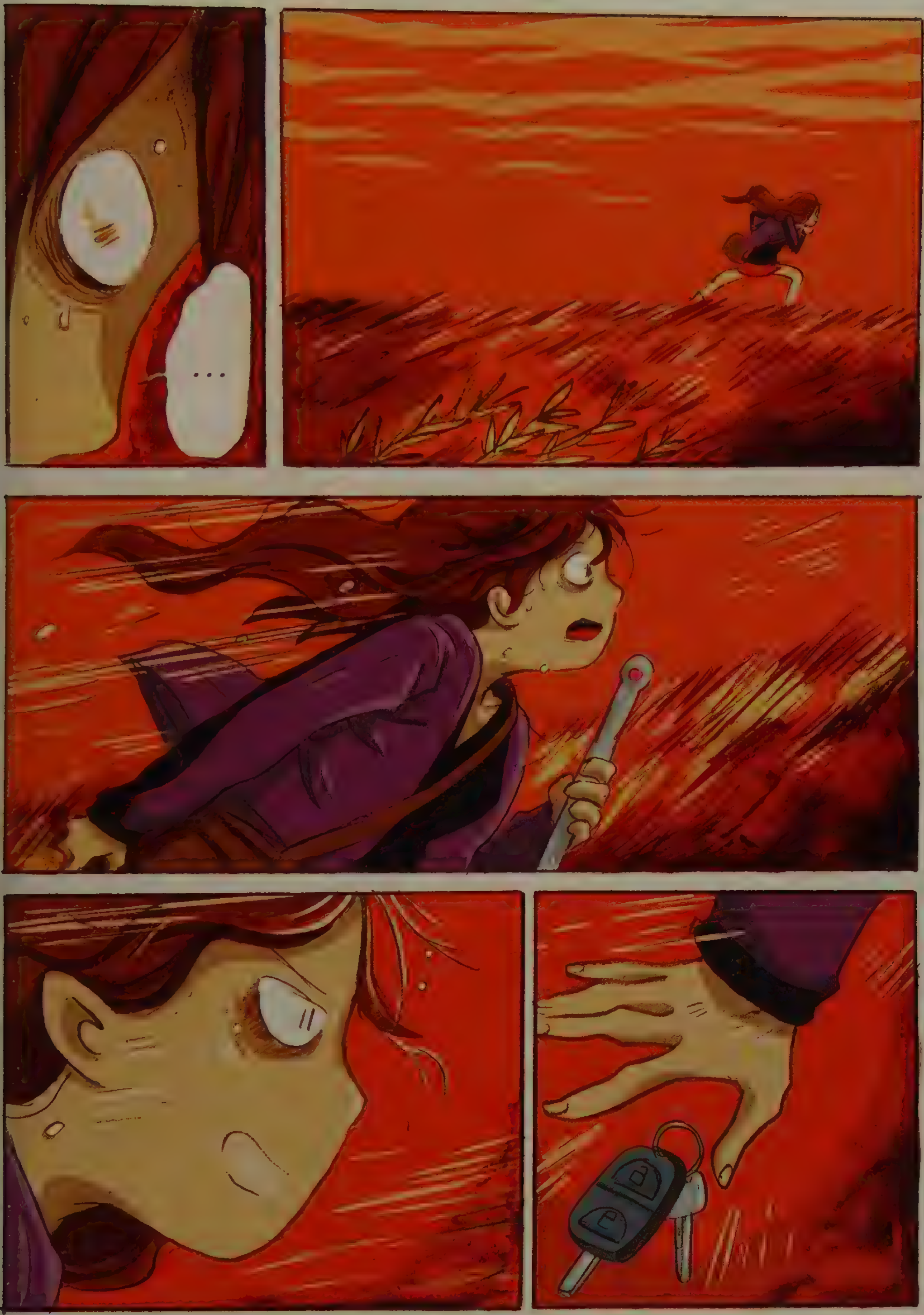

It's already late afternoon . . .
These assholes better come soon.
I'll check that van over there.
Maybe we can even use it.
We can't leave the train!
We have to wait!
Then you stay here . . .
. . . And once I'm in Jena, I'll call you a cab.
Eva!!

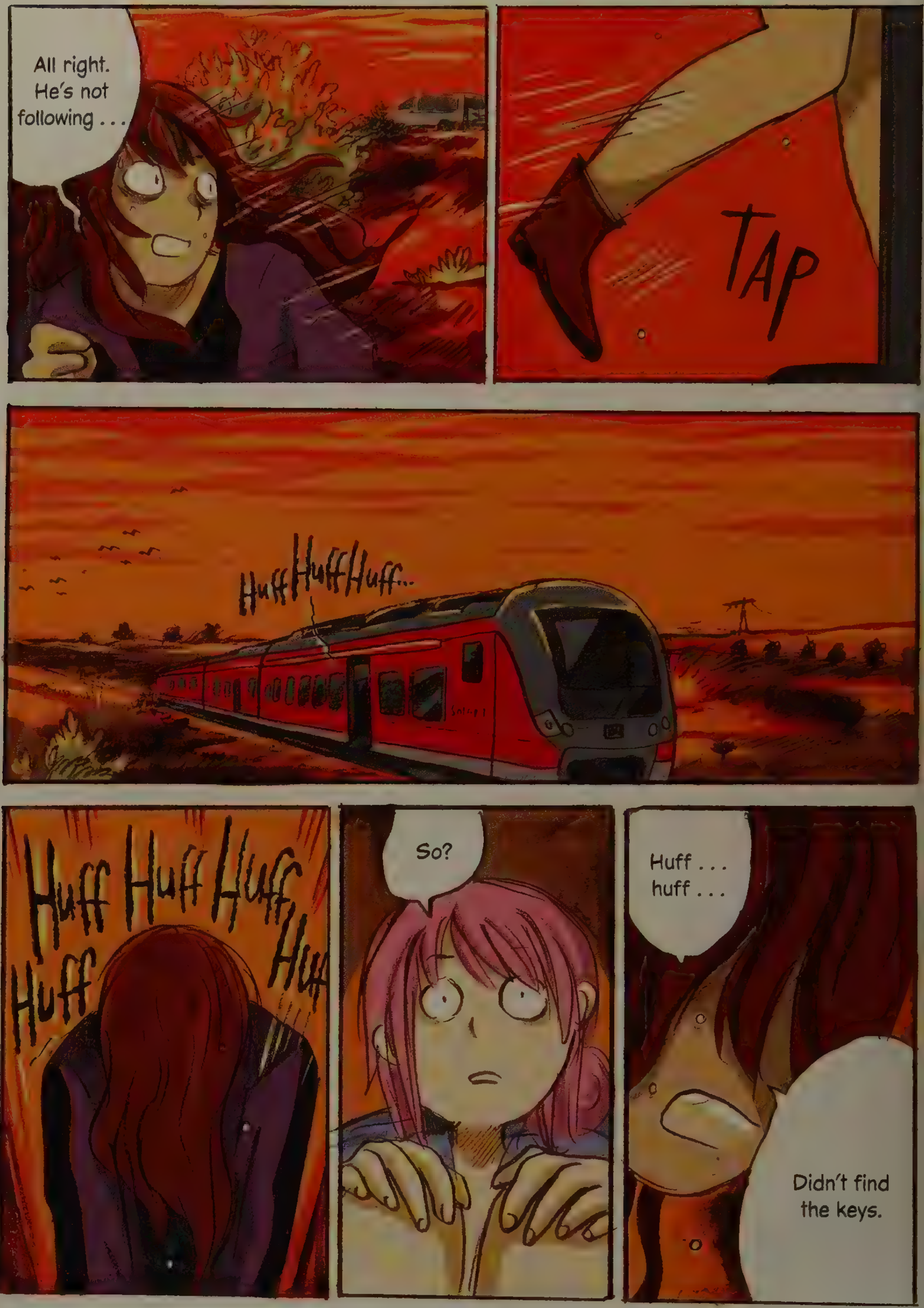


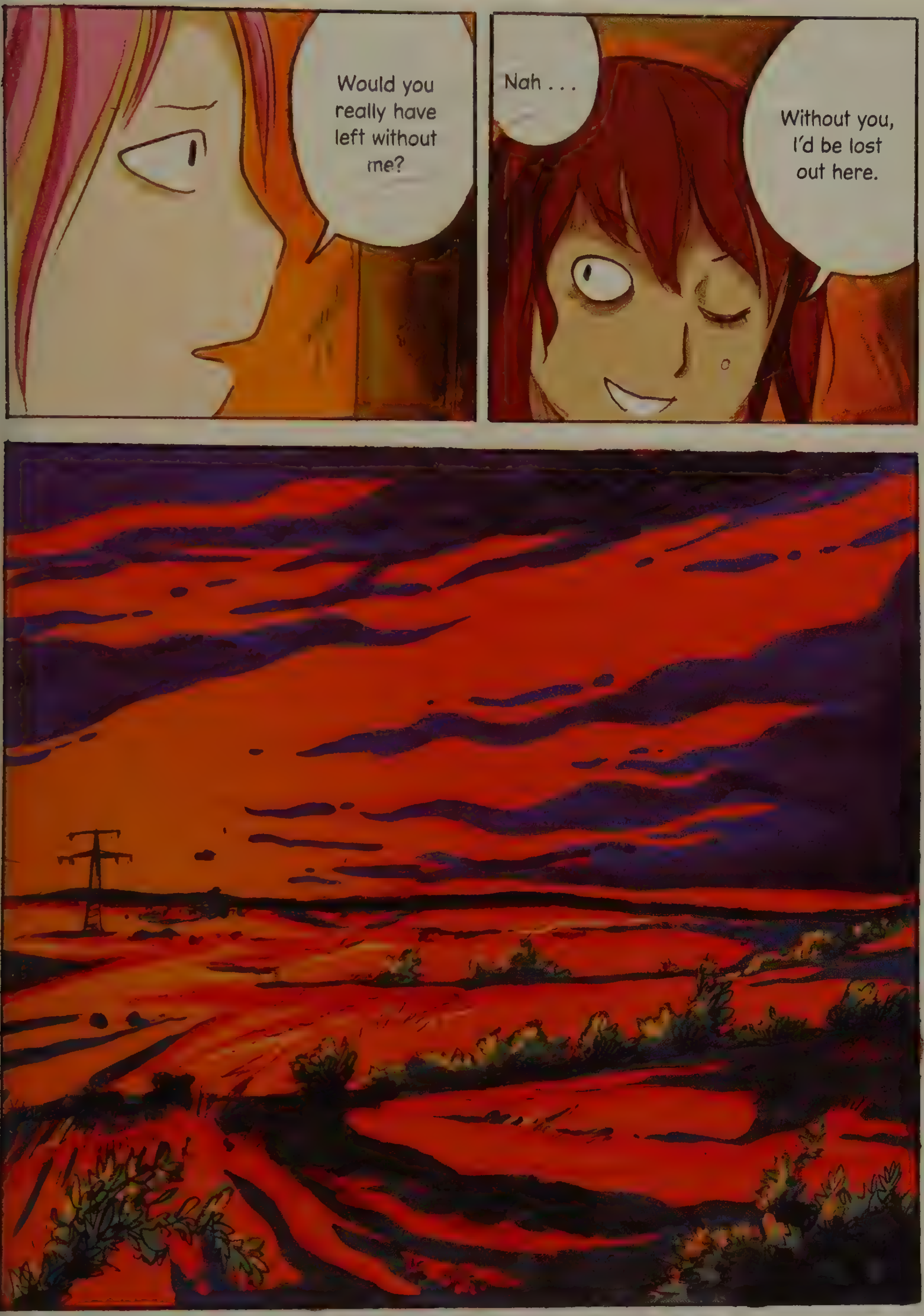

KZZzzzZ
PM 17

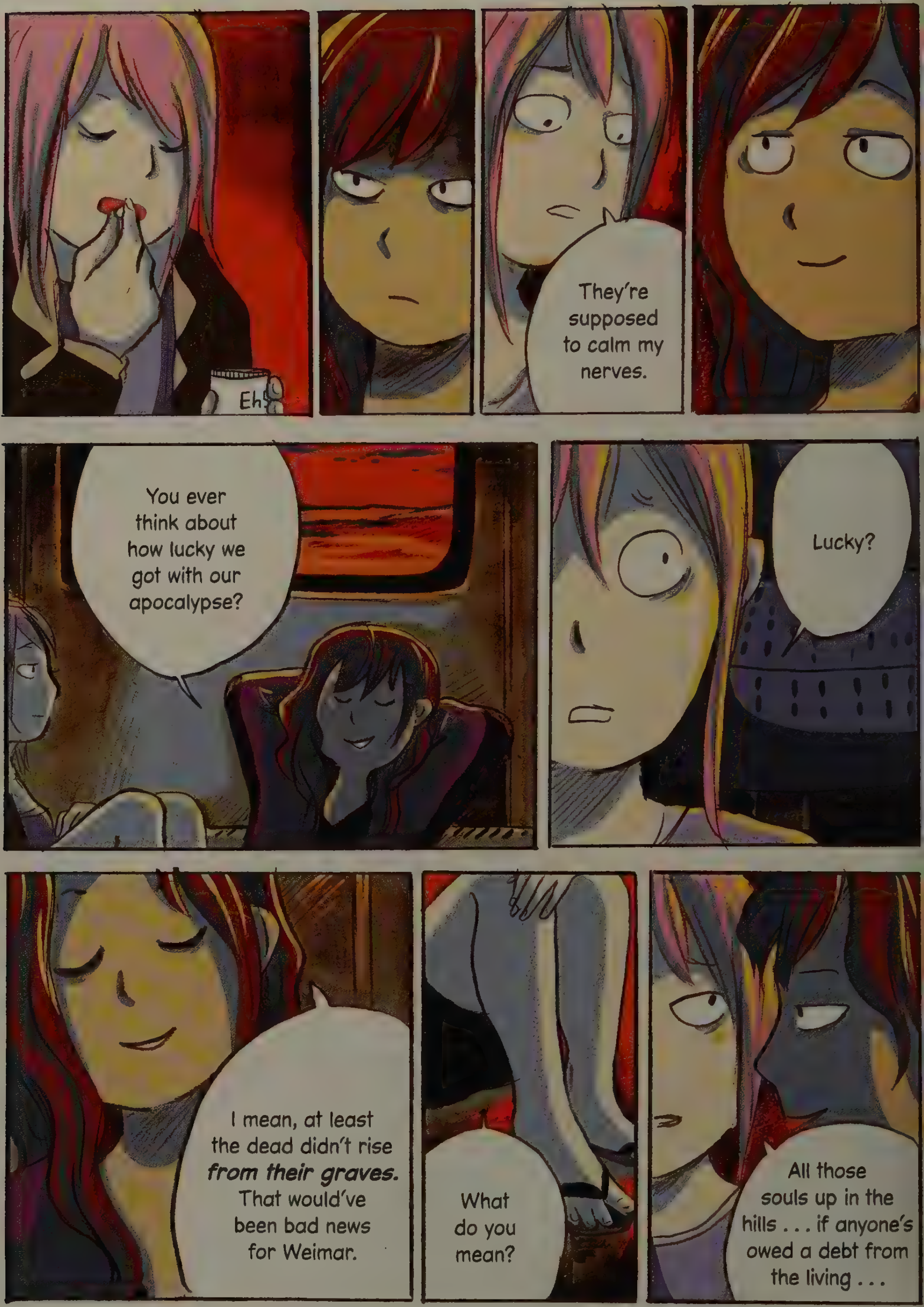

Nothing.
Where are the keys?
Click
Ah!
Huh?
Kchhh . . .
Kchhhhhhh
Blegh . . .

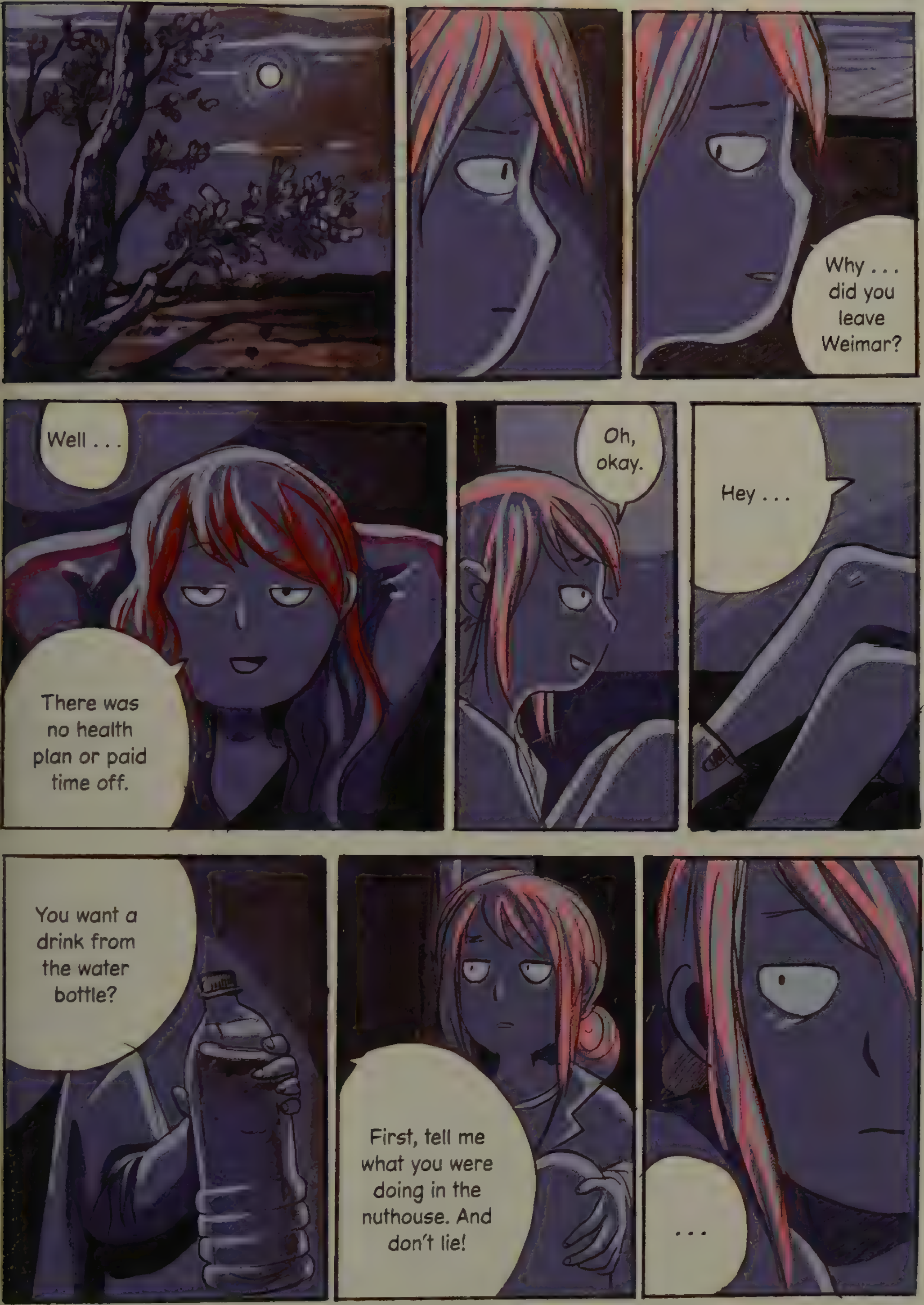

!!
HHH...
Kch
Kchhh..
What's happening to me?
The symptoms.
Dizziness, nausea, bleeding . . .
Loss of control . . .

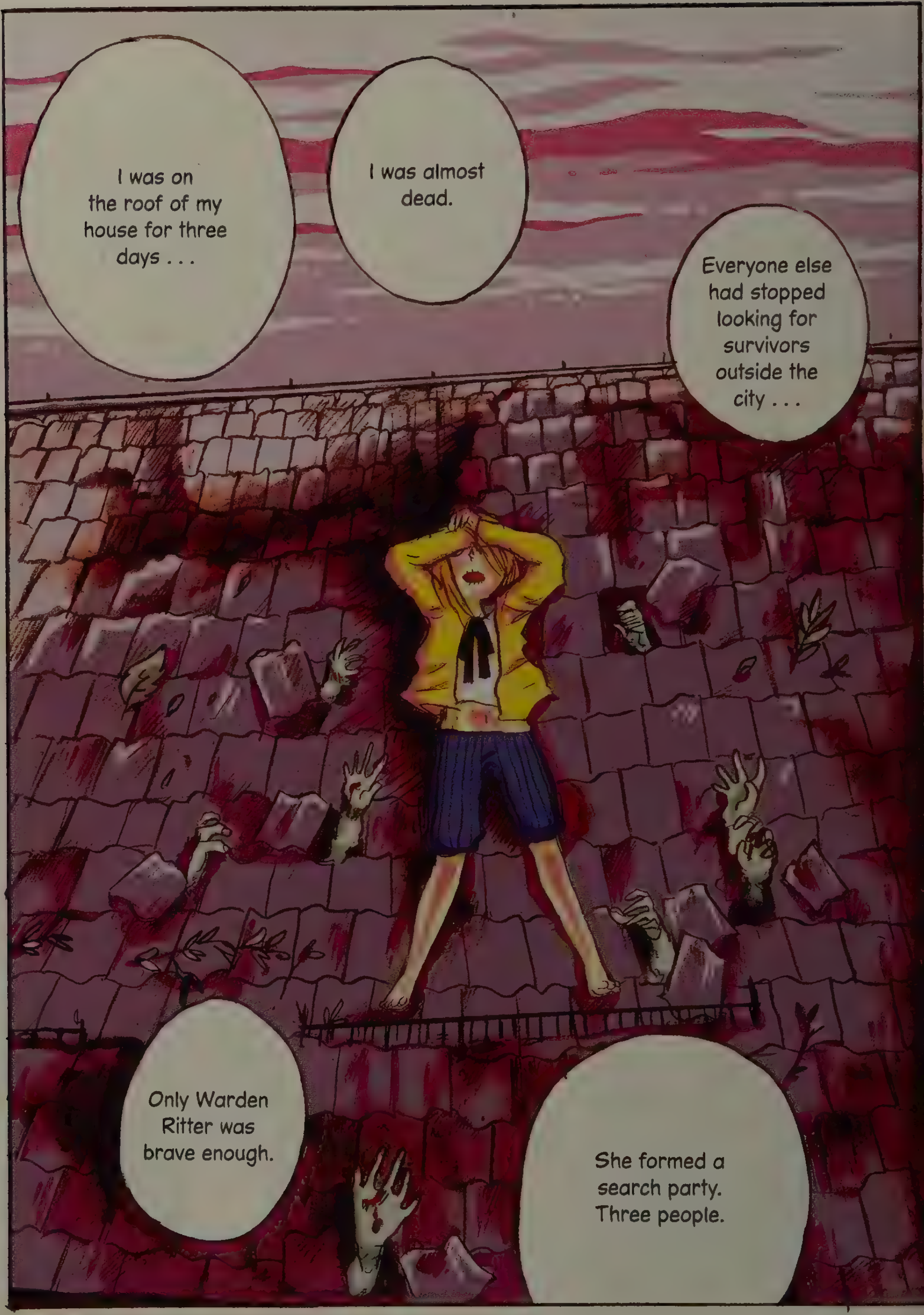


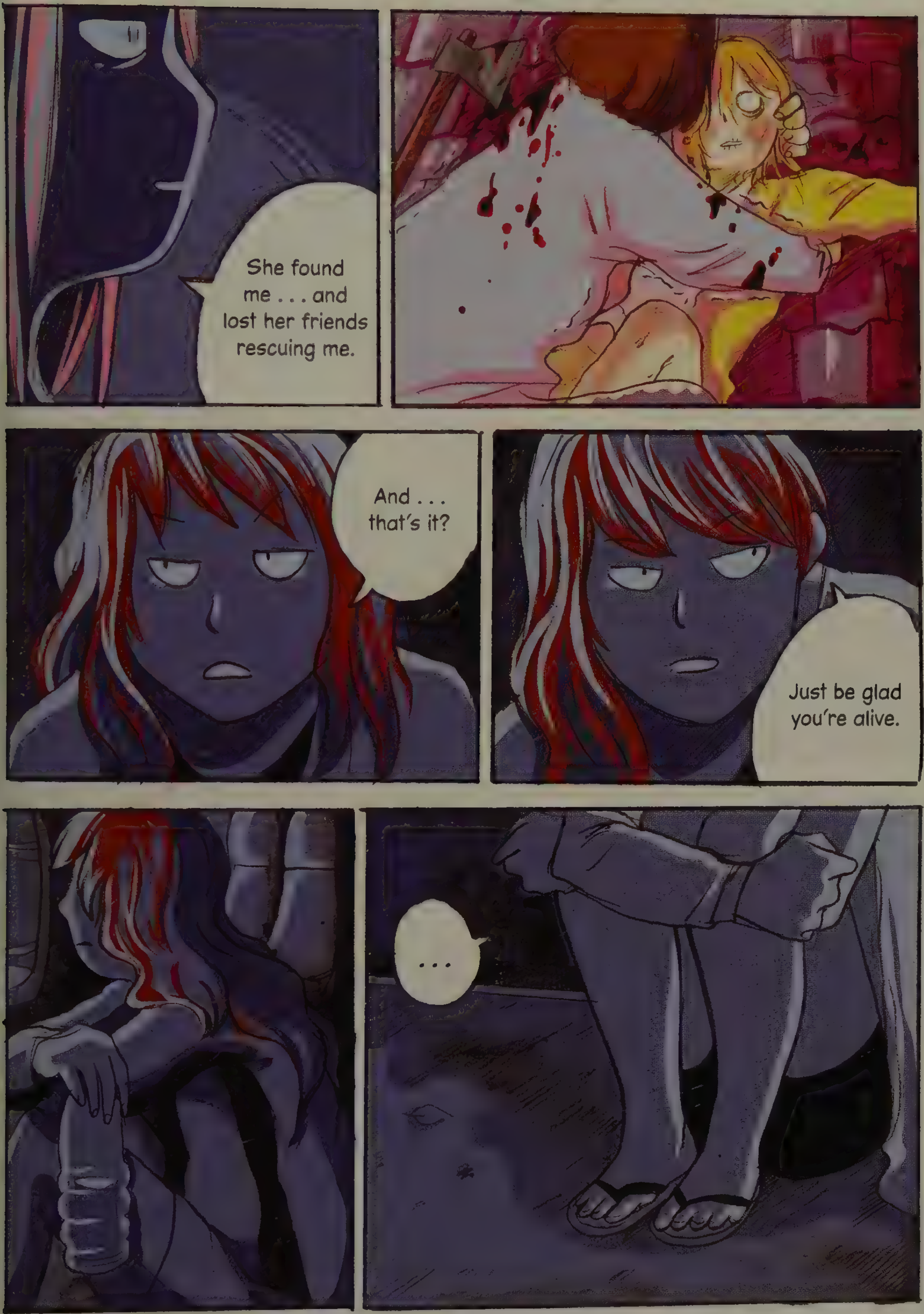

All right. He's not following . . .
TAP
Huff Huff Huff...
Huff Huff Huff
Huff
Huff
So?
Huff . . . huff . . .
Didn't find the keys.

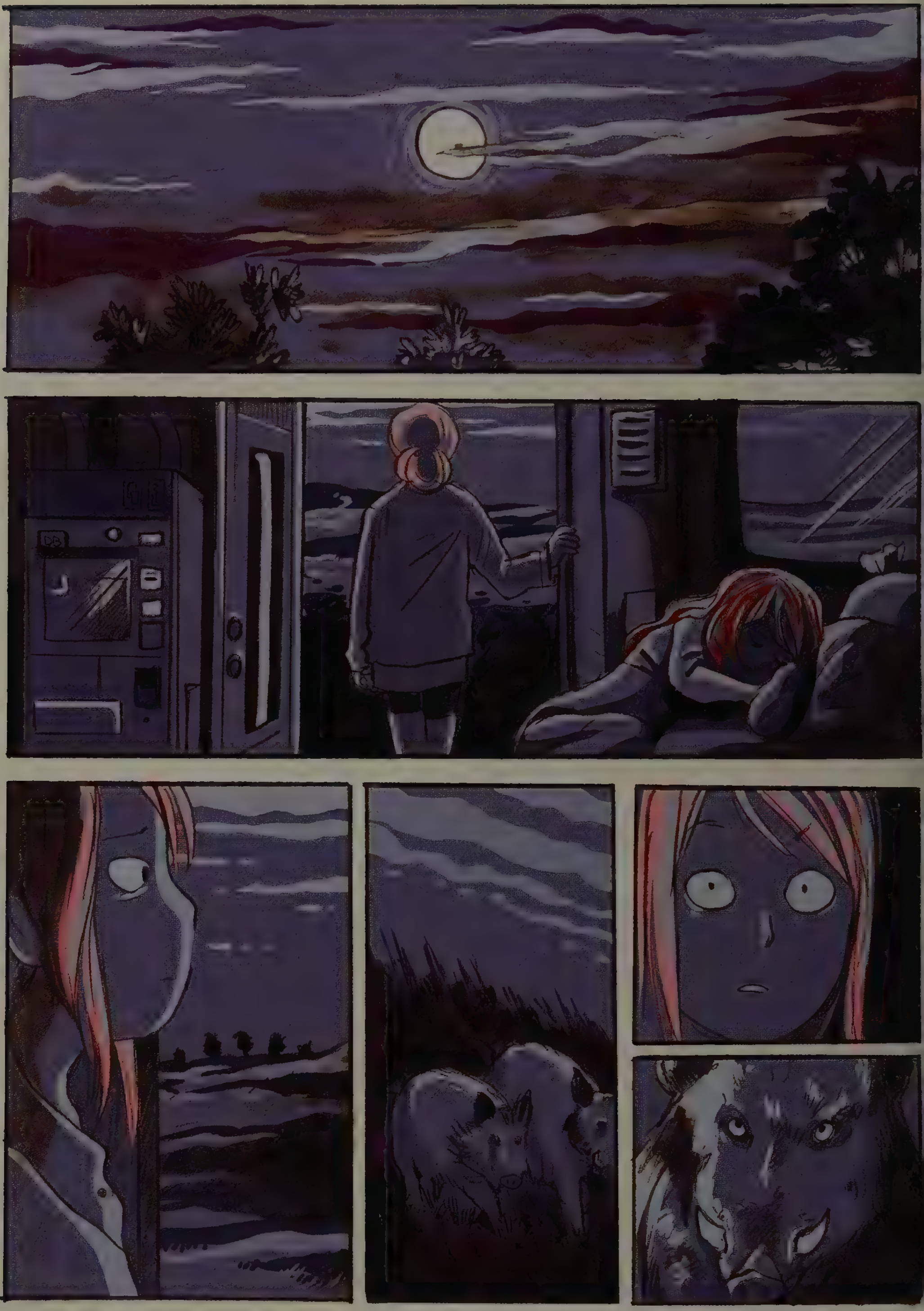

Would you really have left without me?
Nah . . .
Without you, I'd be lost out here.

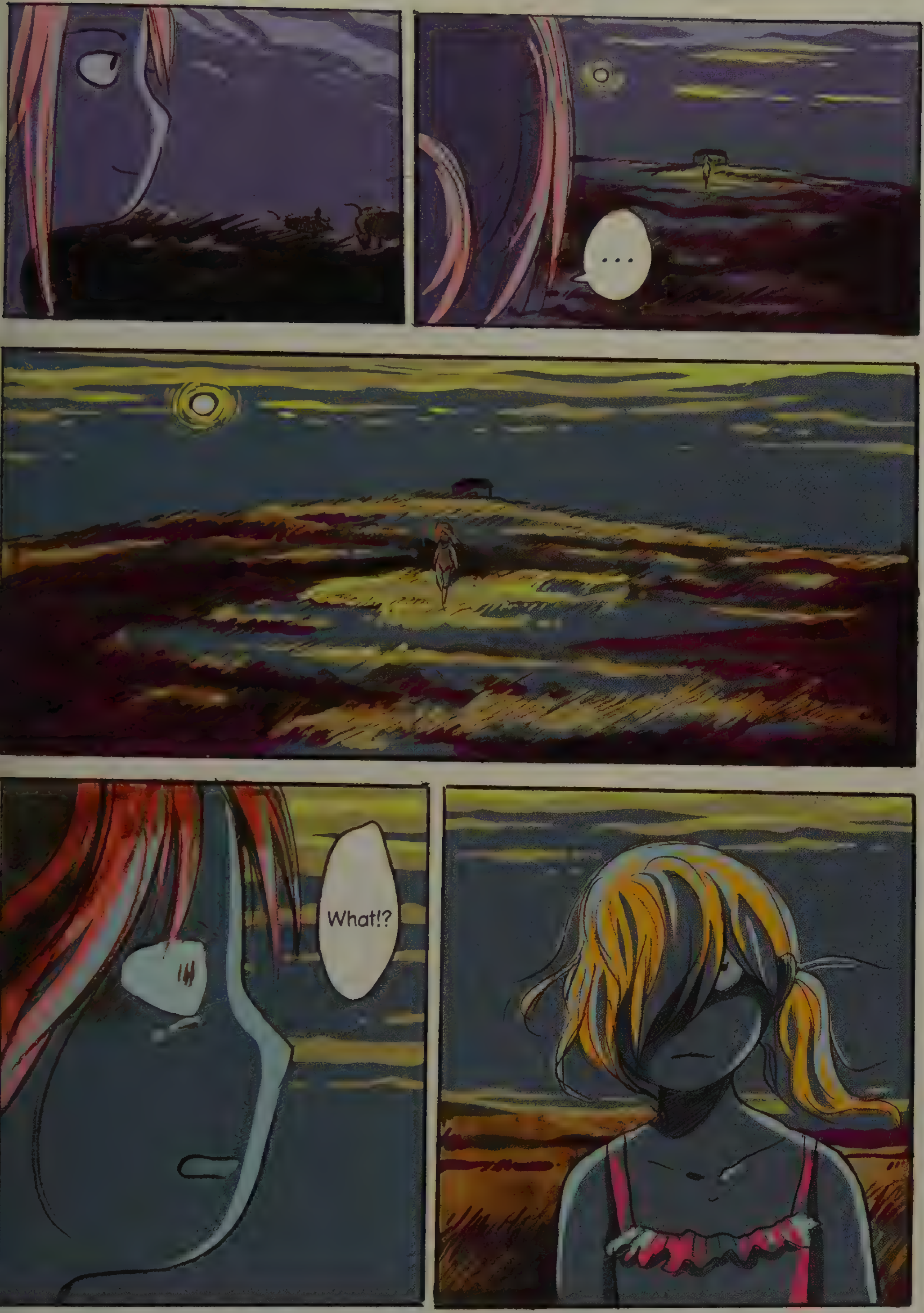

Eh
They're supposed to calm my nerves.
You ever think about how lucky we got with our apocalypse?
Lucky?
I mean, at least the dead didn't rise *from their graves.* That would've been bad news for Weimar.
What do you mean?
All those souls up in the hills . . . if anyone's owed a debt from the living . . .

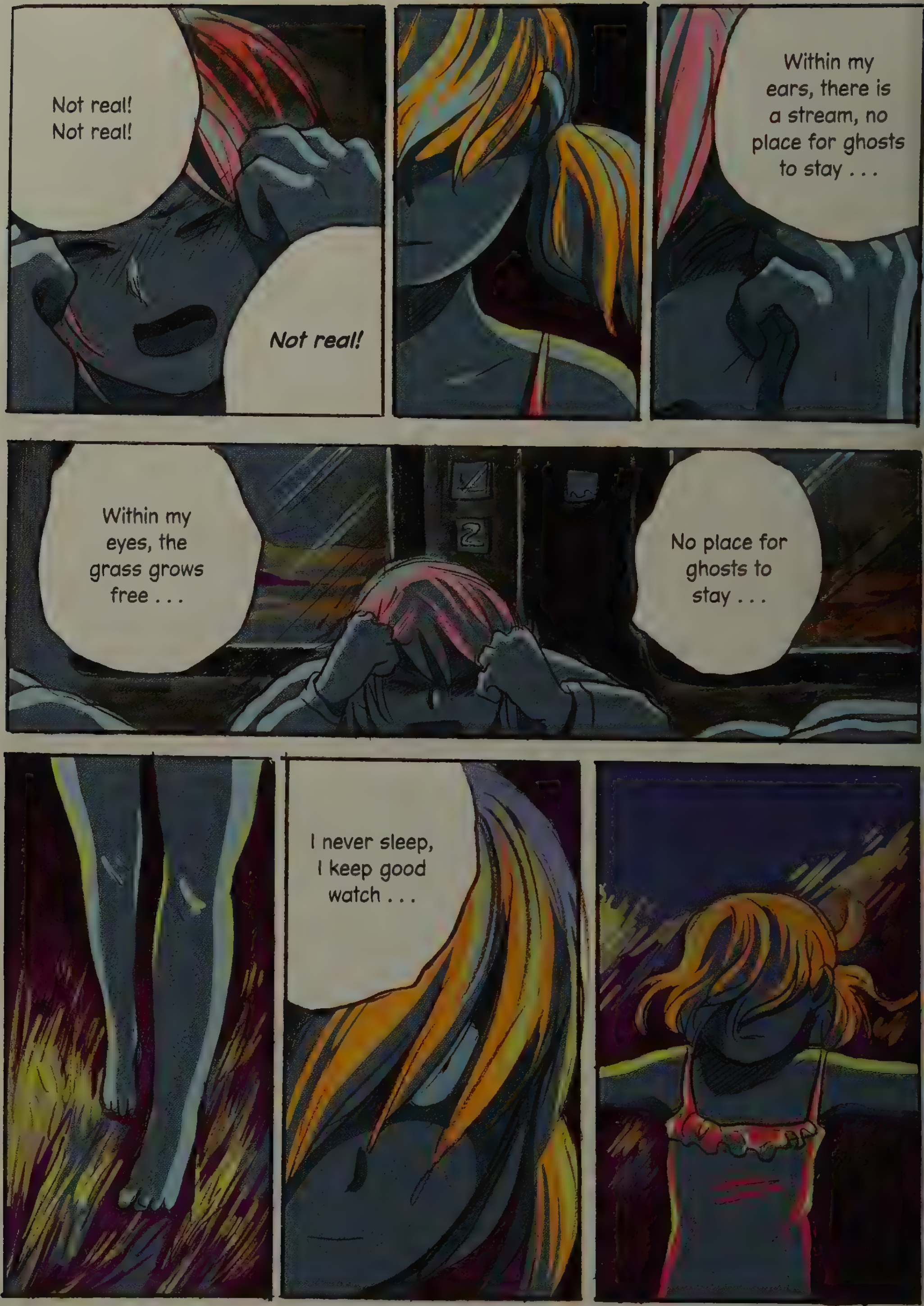

Why . . . did you leave Weimar?
Well . . .
There was no health plan or paid time off.
Oh, okay.
Hey . . .
You want a drink from the water bottle?
First, tell me what you were doing in the nuthouse. And don't lie!
. . .

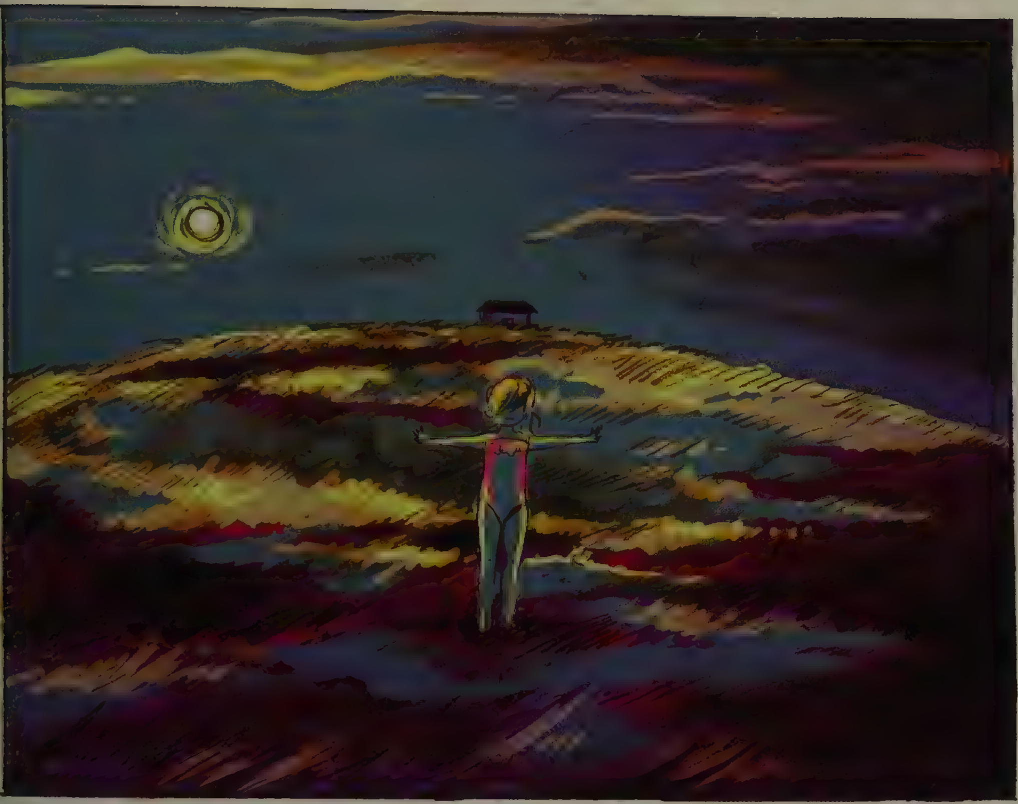

I was on the roof of my house for three days . . .
I was almost dead.
Everyone else had stopped looking for survivors outside the city . . .
Only Warden Ritter was brave enough.
She formed a search party. Three people.

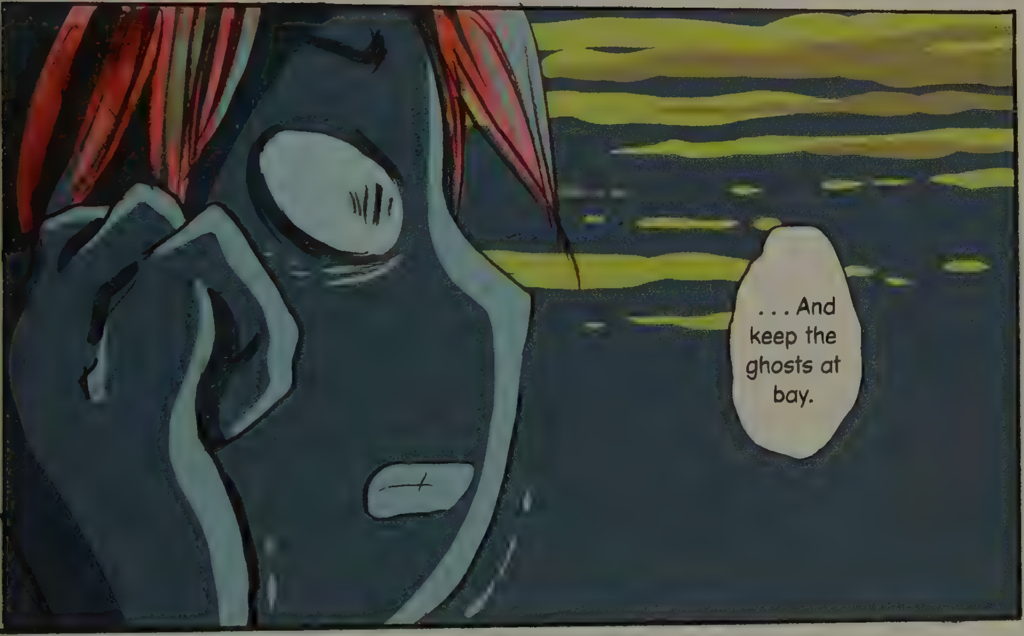

She found me . . . and lost her friends rescuing me.
And . . . that's it?
Just be glad you're alive.
. . .

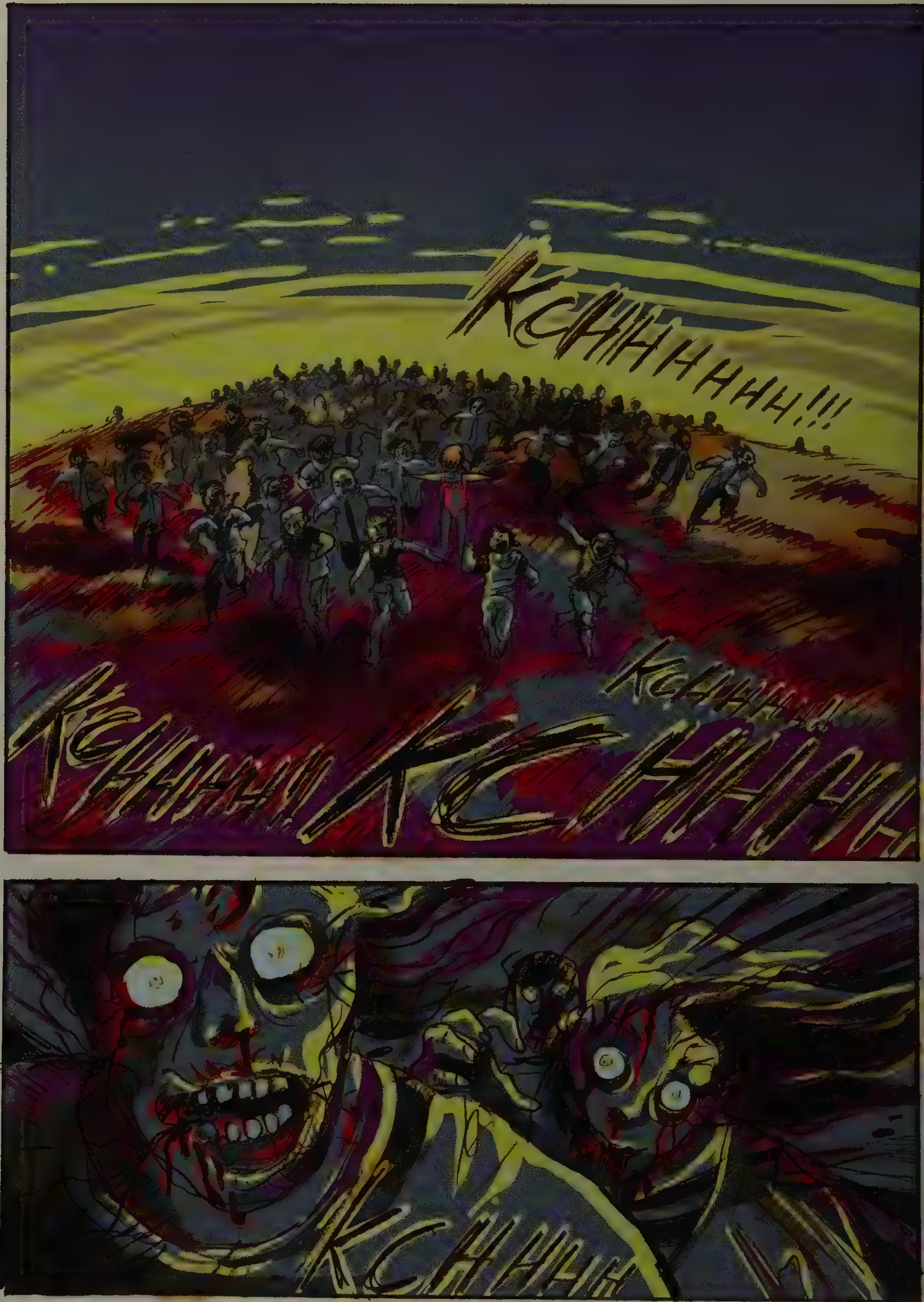

DB

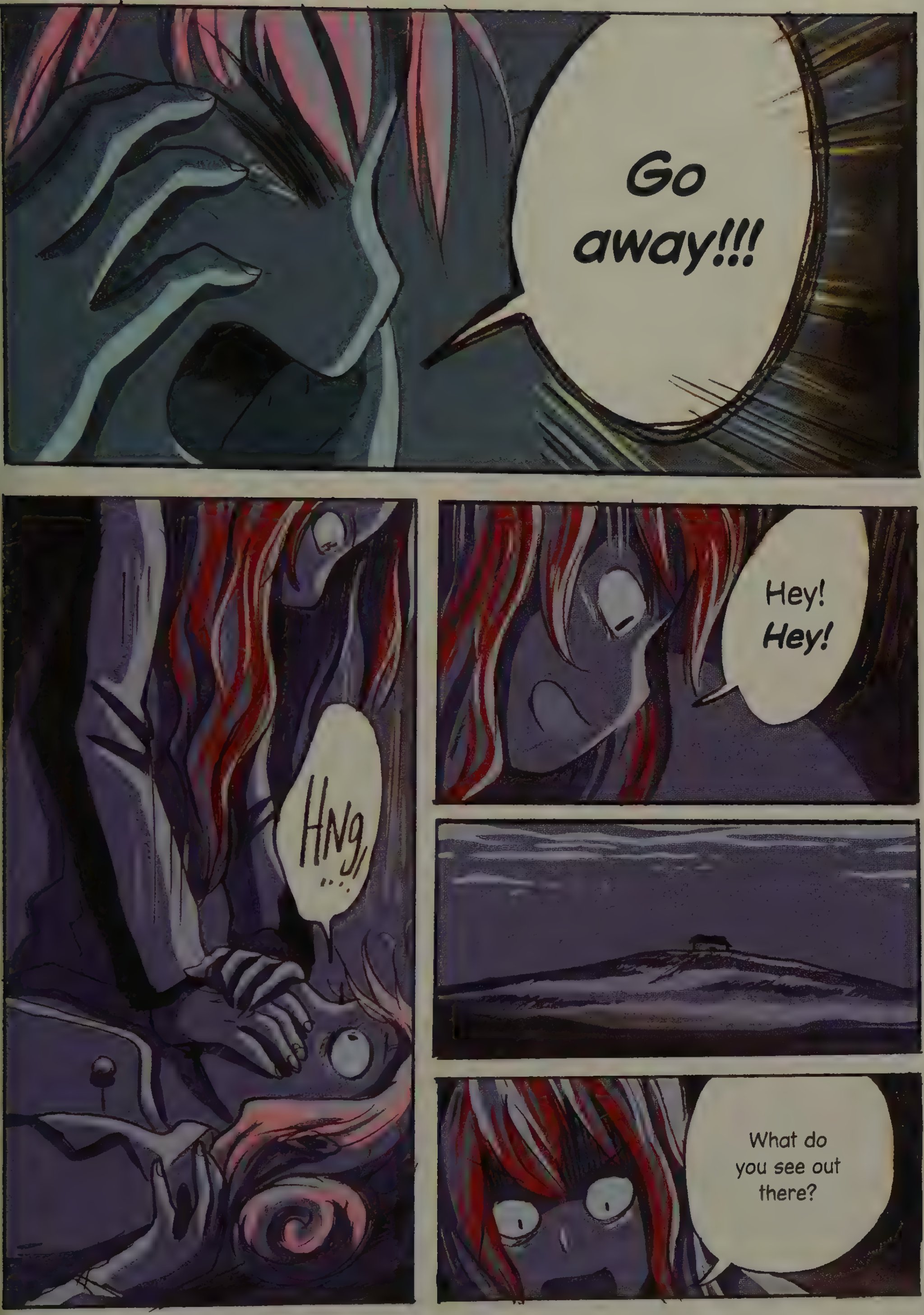

...
What!?

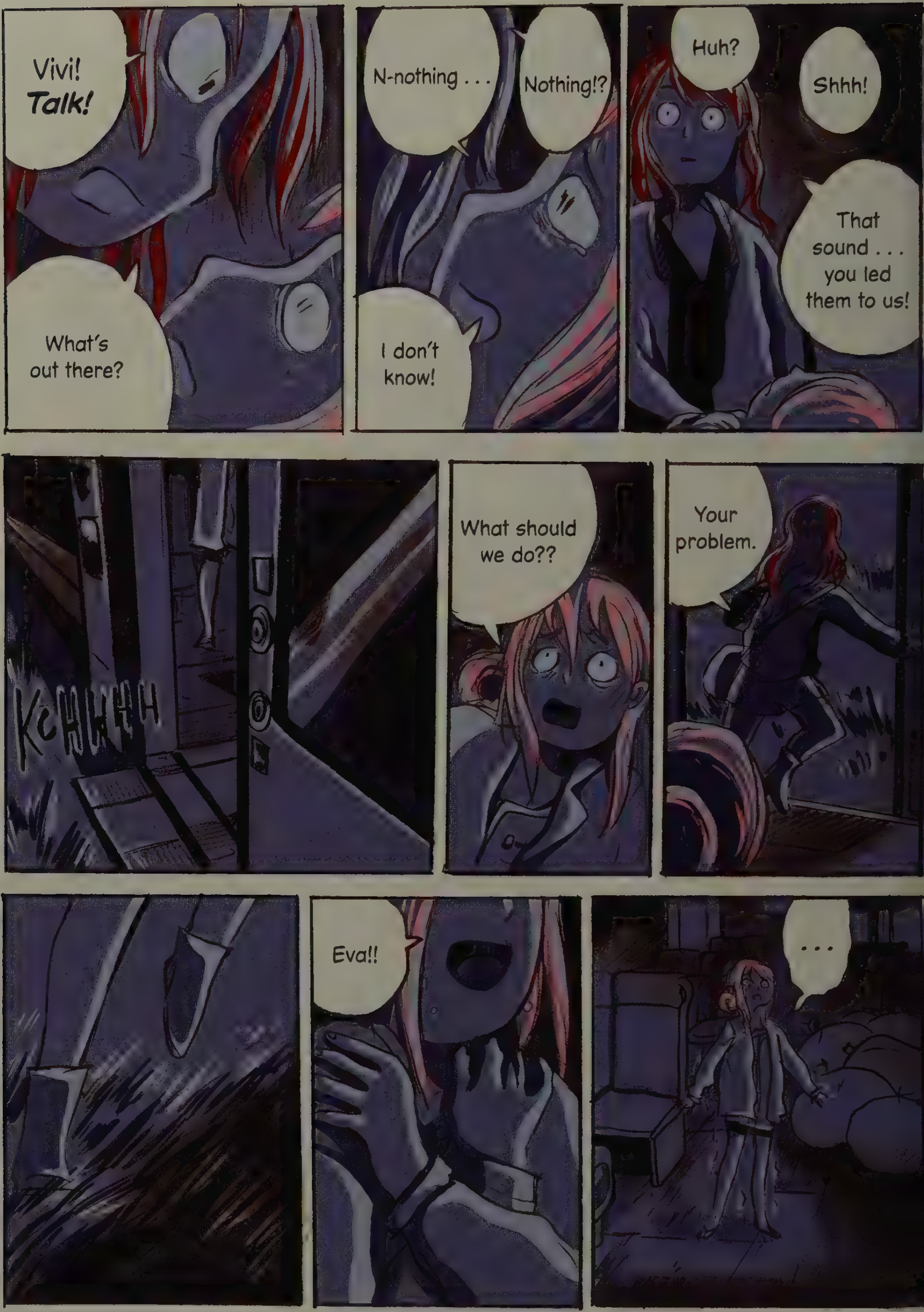

Not real!
Not real!
Not real!
Within my ears, there is a stream, no place for ghosts to stay . . .
Within my eyes, the grass grows free . . .
2
No place for ghosts to stay . . .
I never sleep, I keep good watch . . .

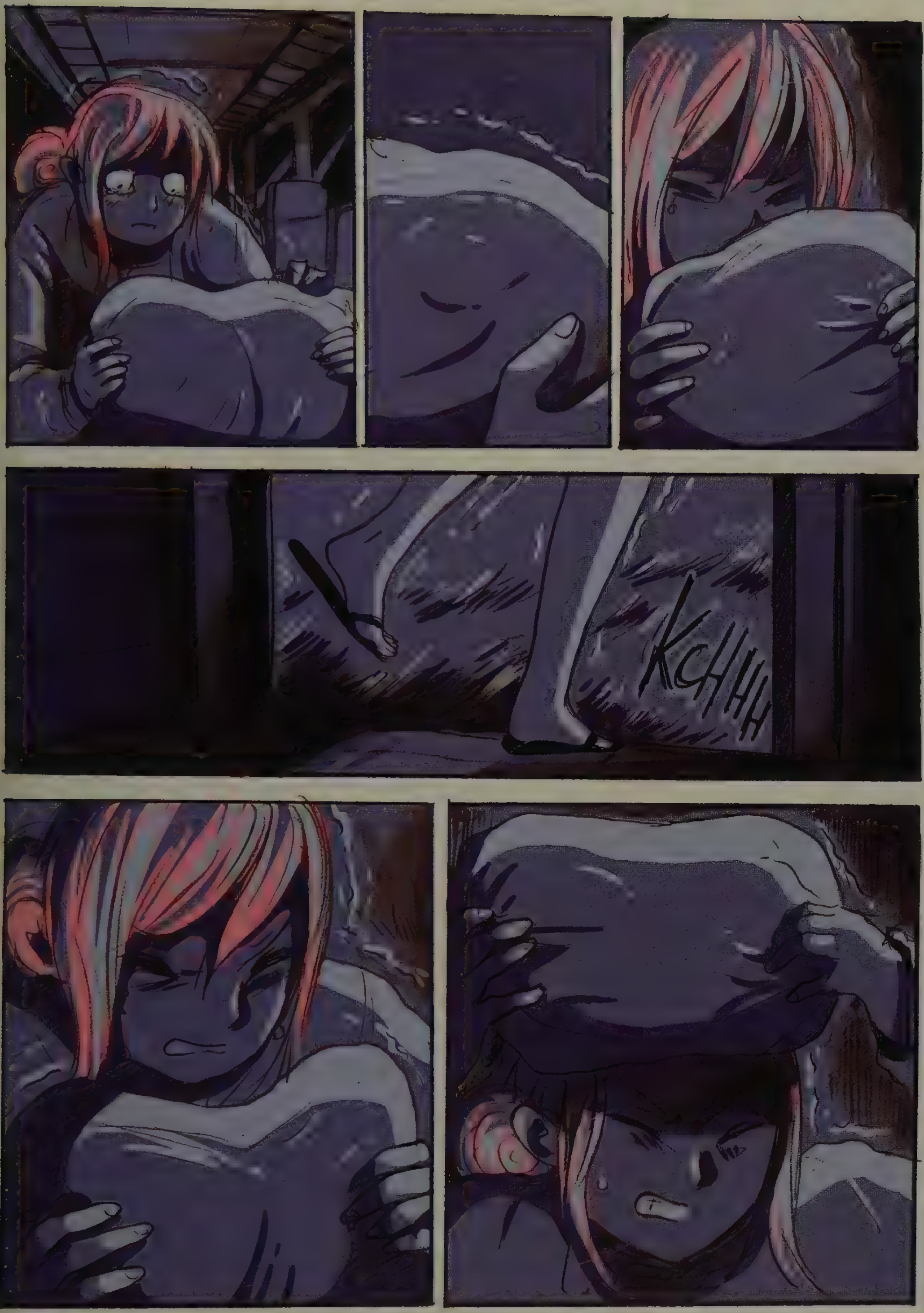


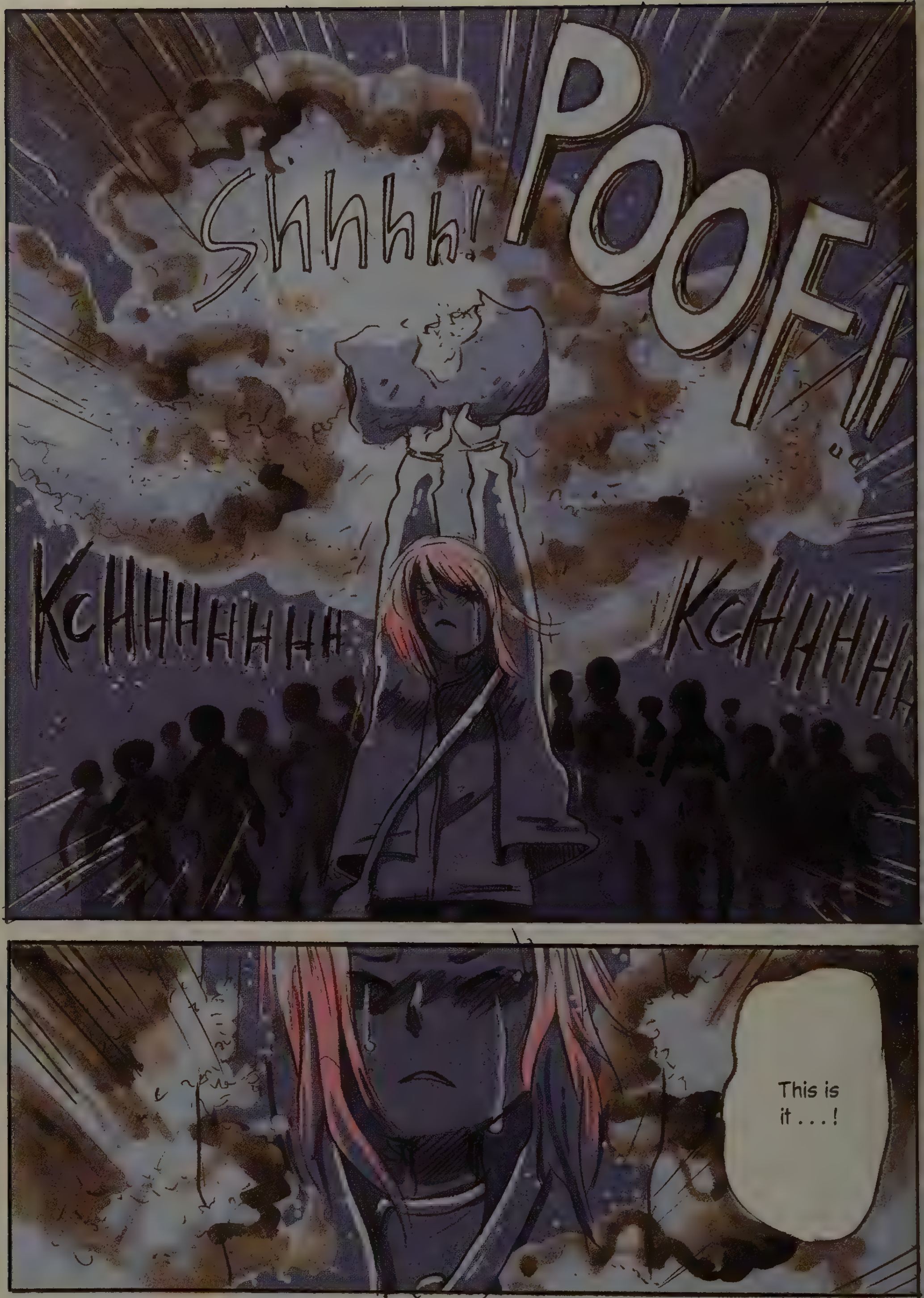

. . . And keep the ghosts at bay.

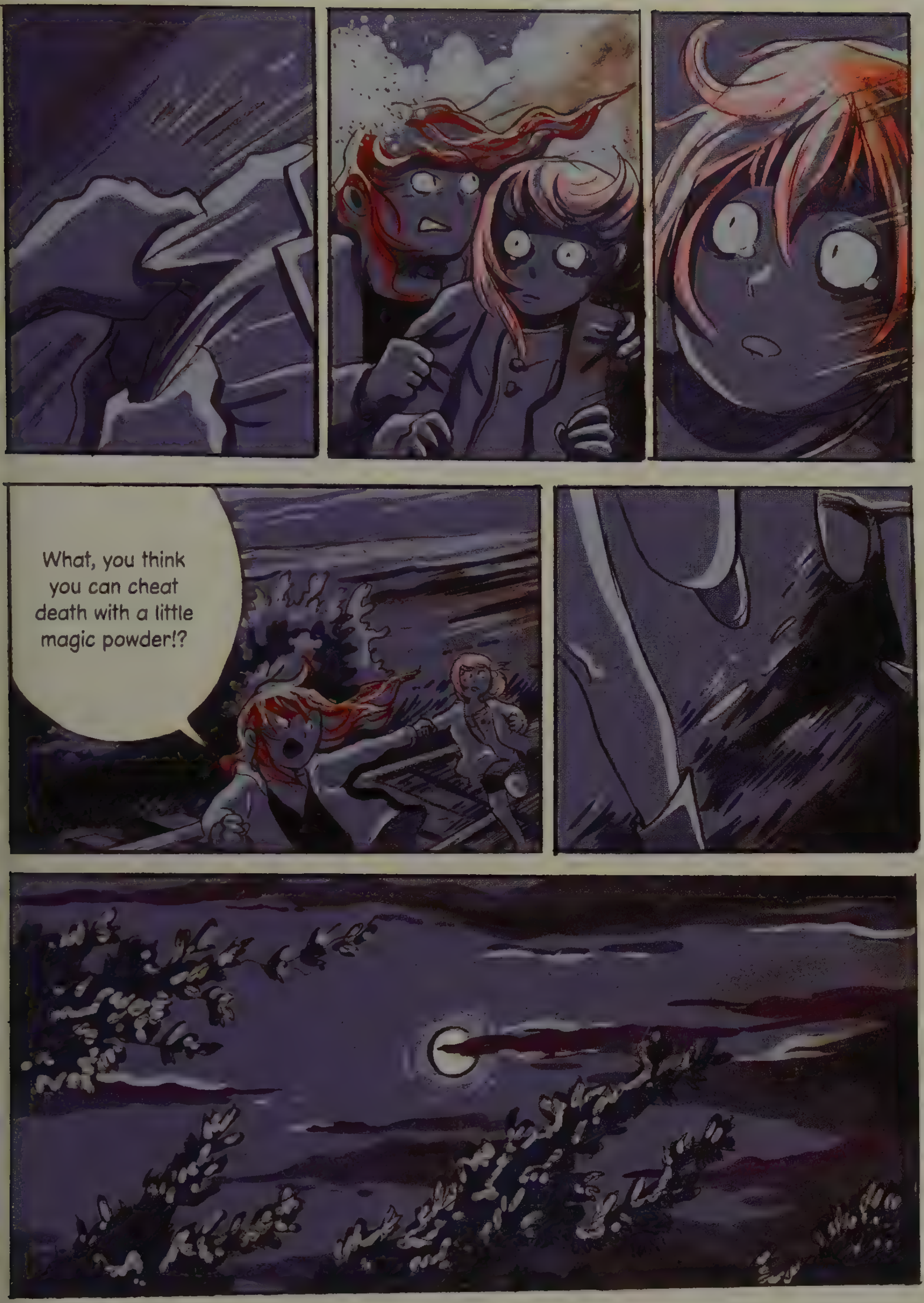

KCHHHHHHH!!!
KCHHHH!
KCHHHH...
KCHHHHH
KCHHHH

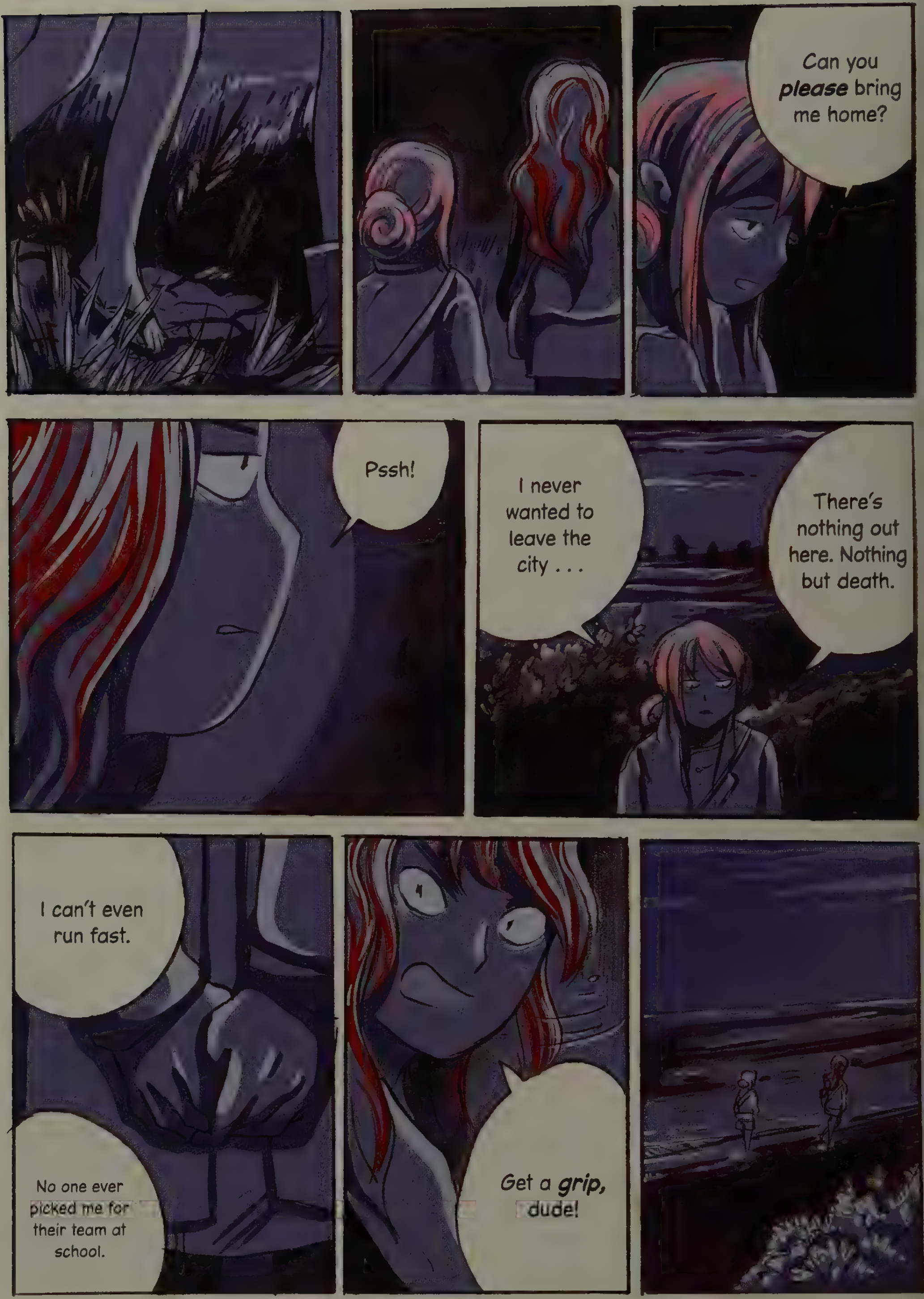

Go away!!!
Hng...
Hey! Hey!
What do you see out there?

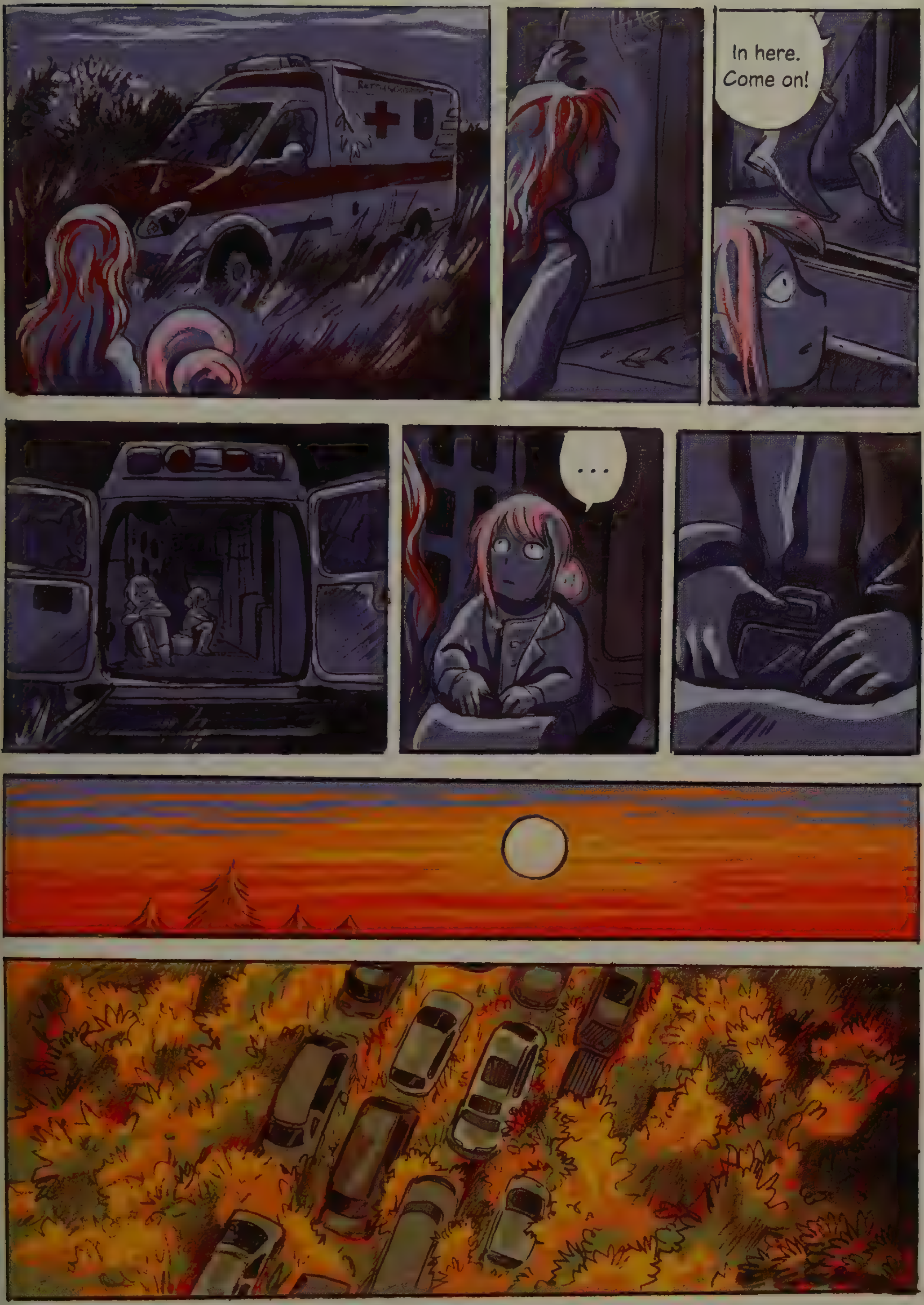

Vivi! *Talk!*
What's out there?
N-nothing . . .
Nothing!?
I don't know!
Huh?
Shhh!
That sound . . . you led them to us!
KCHHHH
What should we do??
Your problem.
Eva!!
. . .

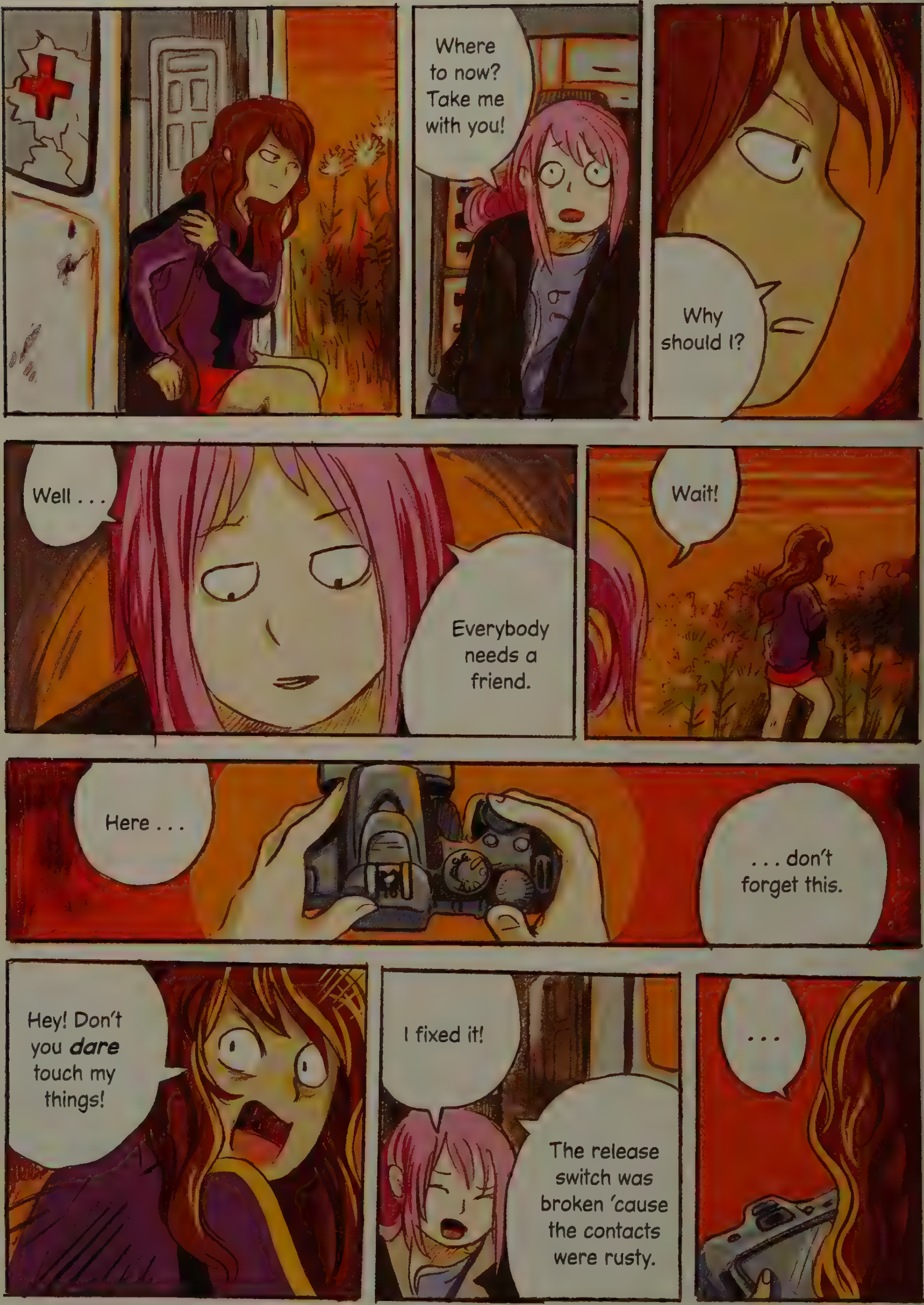

KCHHH

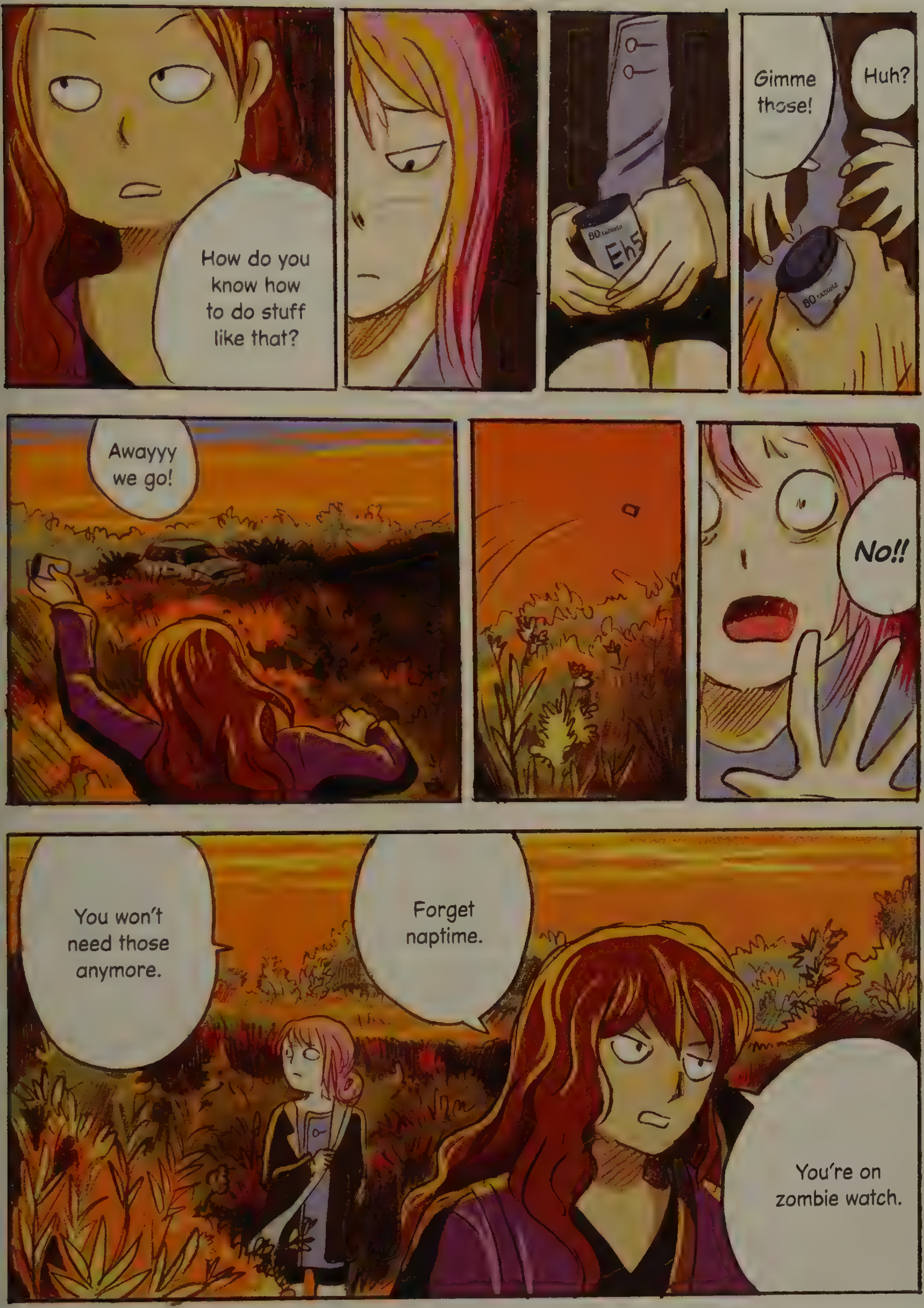

Shhhh!
POOF!!
KCHHHHHHHH
KCHHHHHH
This is it . . . !

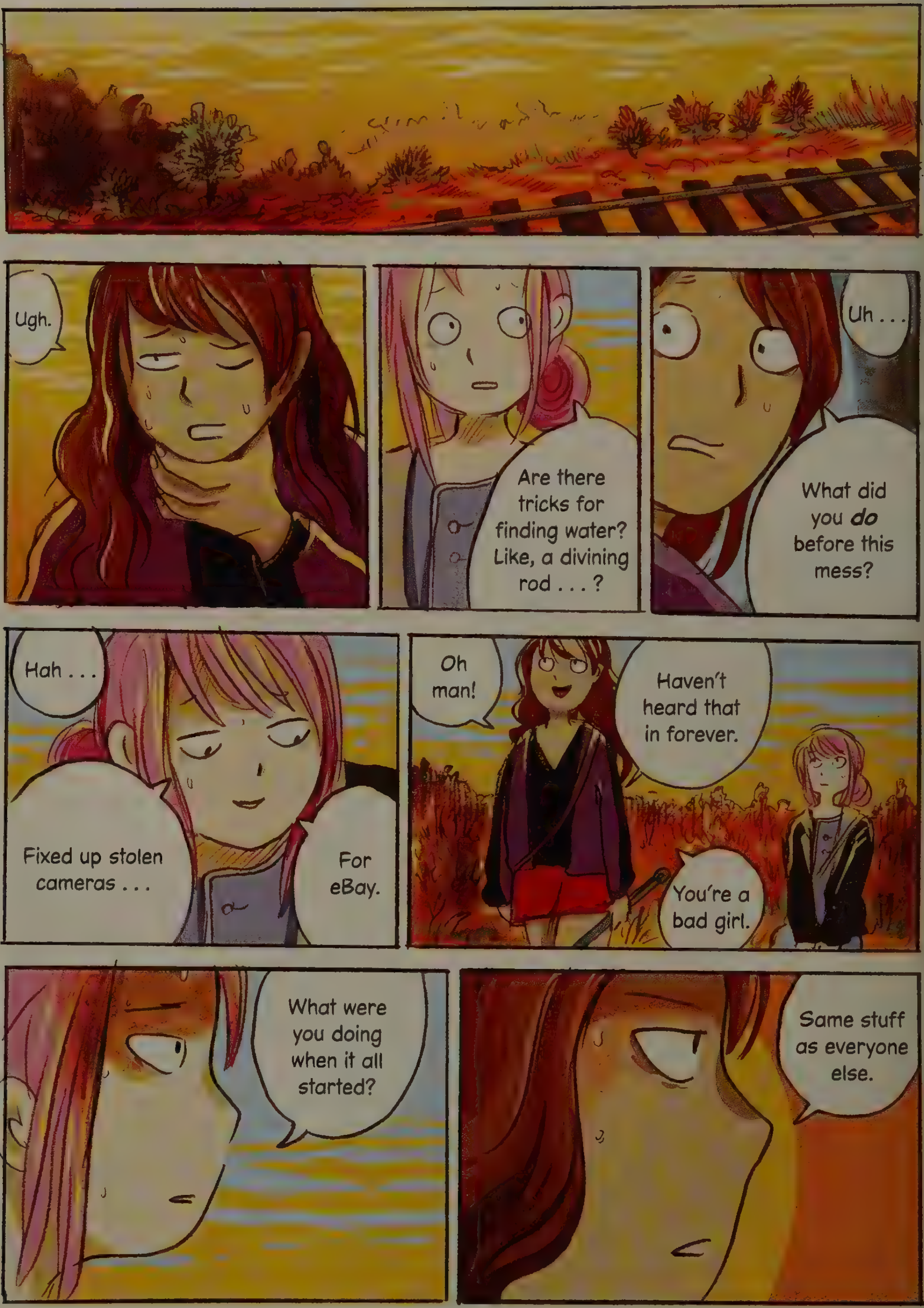

What, you think you can cheat death with a little magic powder!?

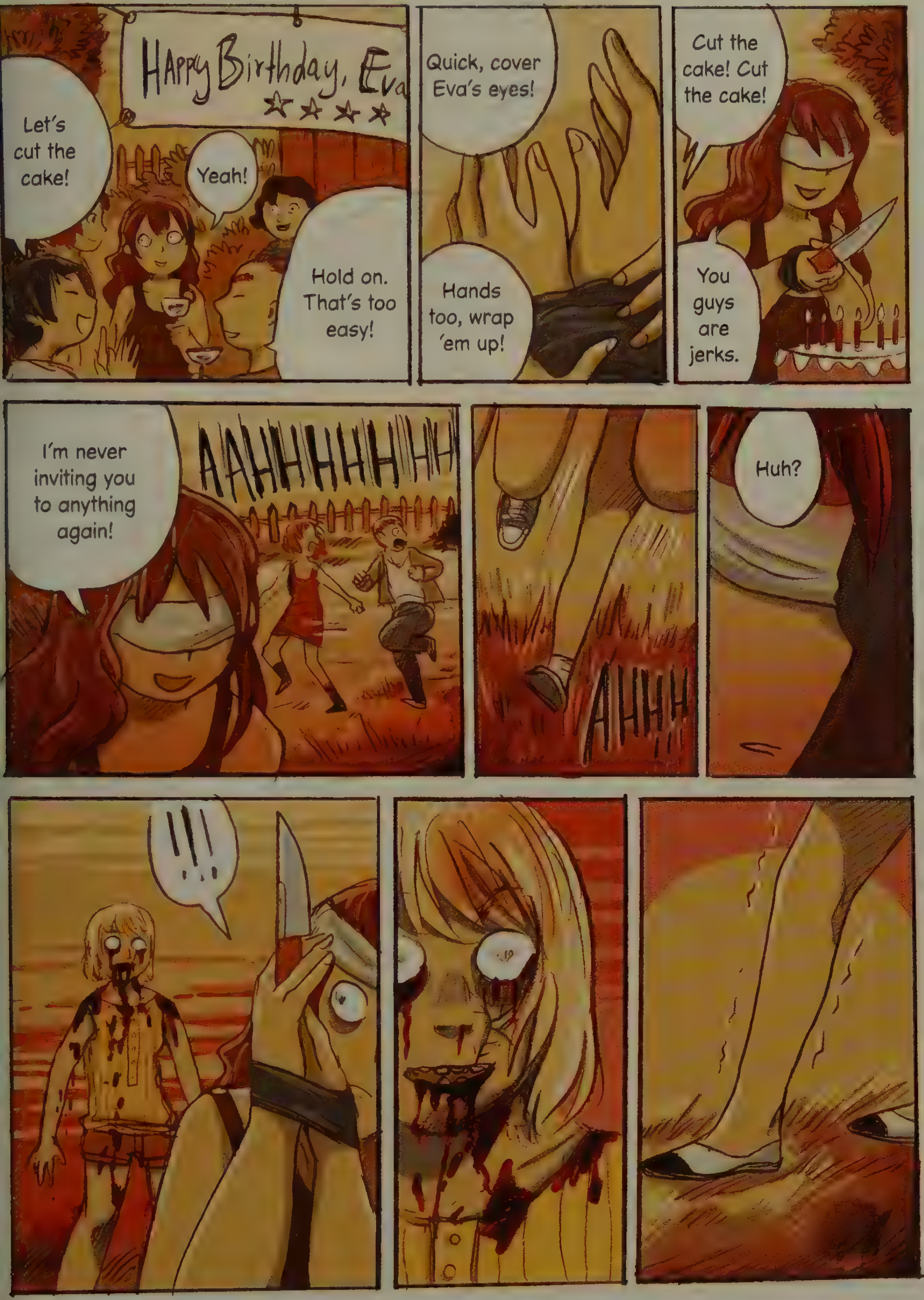

Can you *please* bring me home?
Pssh!
I never wanted to leave the city . . .
There's nothing out here. Nothing but death.
I can't even run fast.
No one ever picked me for their team at school.
Get a *grip*, dude!

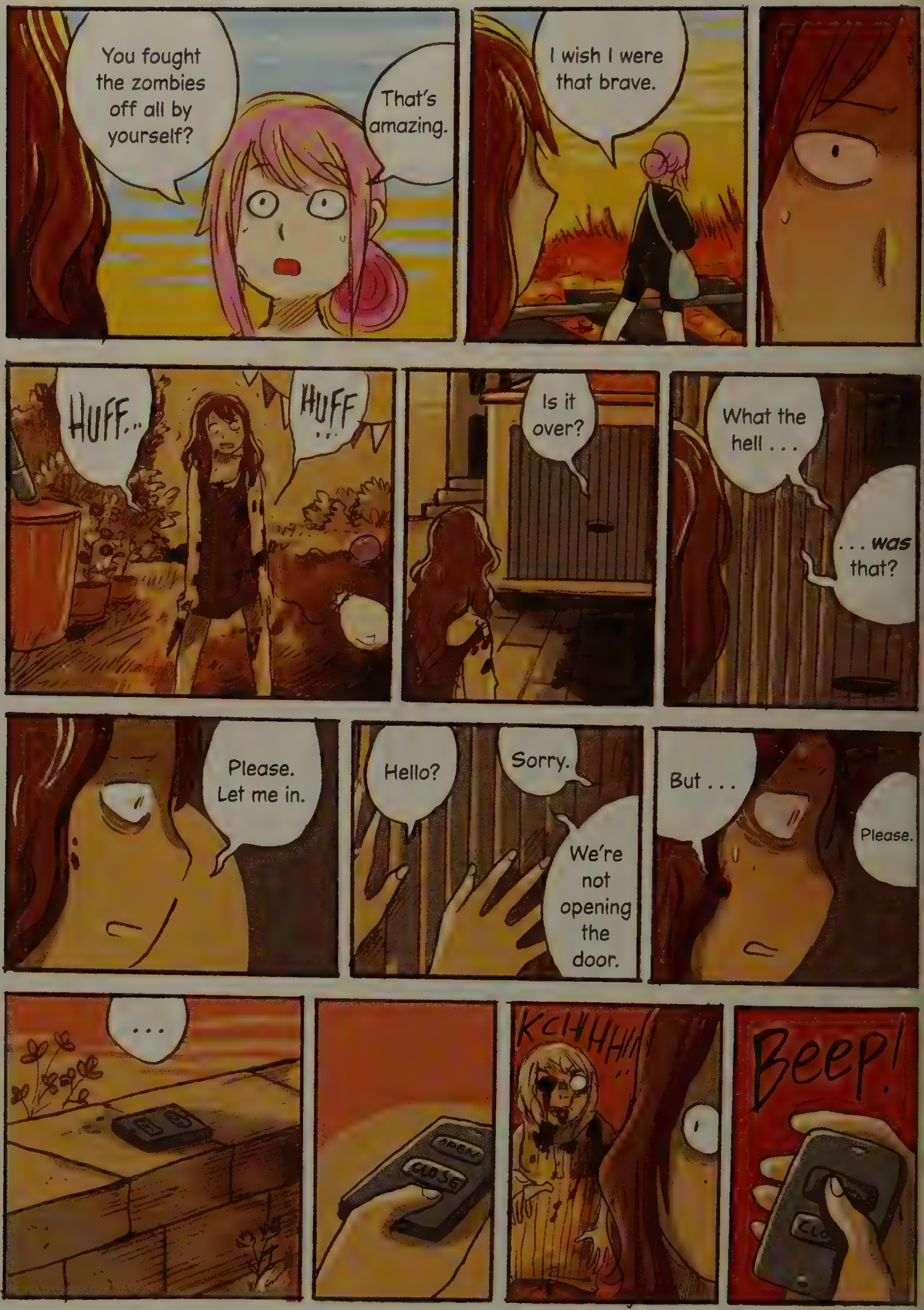

In here. Come on!
...

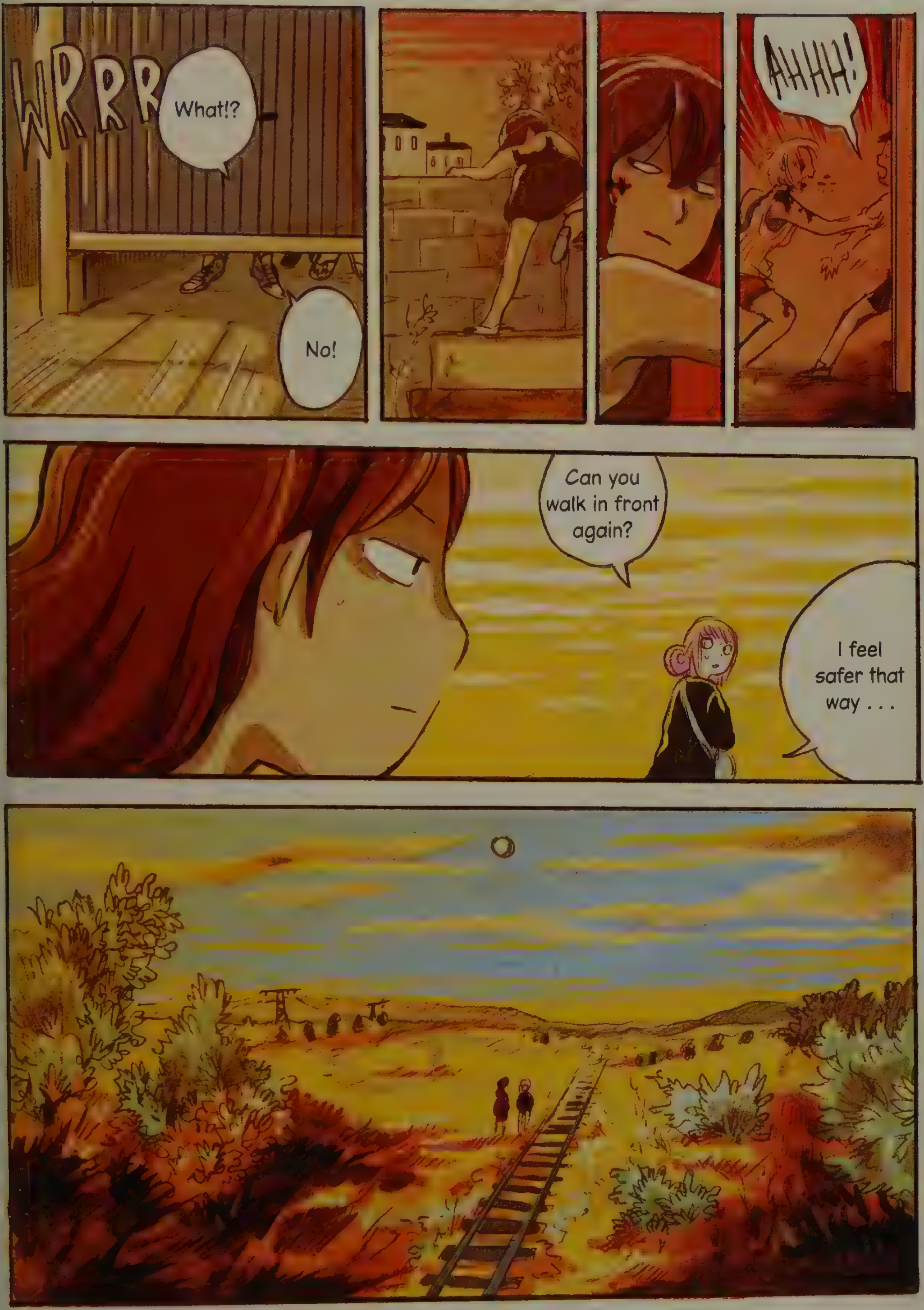

Where to now? Take me with you!
Why should I?
Well . . .
Everybody needs a friend.
Wait!
Here . . .
. . . don't forget this.
Hey! Don't you *dare* touch my things!
I fixed it!
The release switch was broken 'cause the contacts were rusty.
. . .

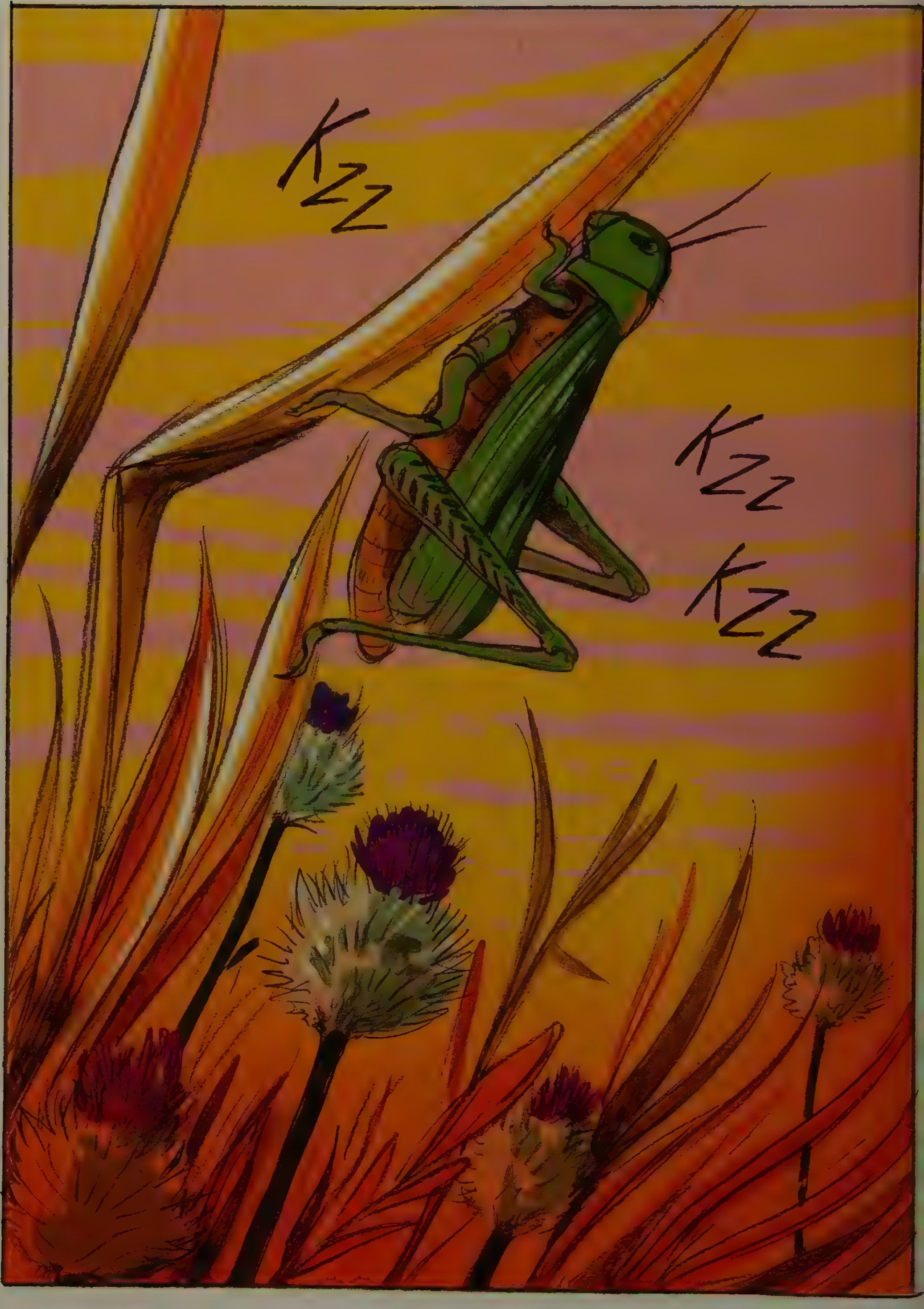

How do you know how to do stuff like that?
80 tablets
Gimme those!
Huh?
80 tablets
Awayyy we go!
No!!
You won't need those anymore.
Forget naptime.
You're on zombie watch.

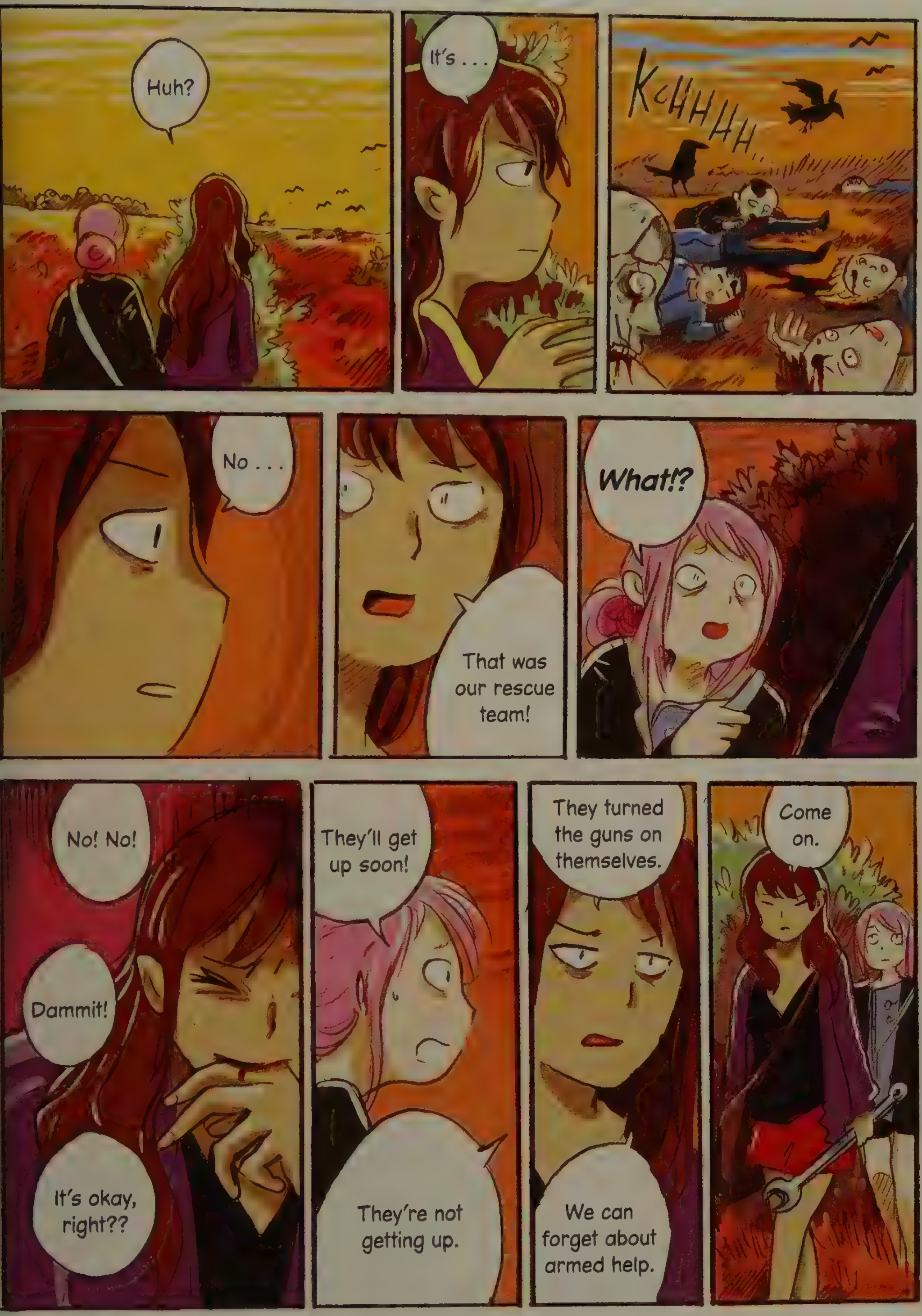

Ugh.
Are there tricks for finding water? Like, a divining rod . . . ?
Uh . . .
What did you *do* before this mess?
Hah . . .
Fixed up stolen cameras . . .
For eBay.
Oh man!
Haven't heard that in forever.
You're a bad girl.
What were you doing when it all started?
Same stuff as everyone else.

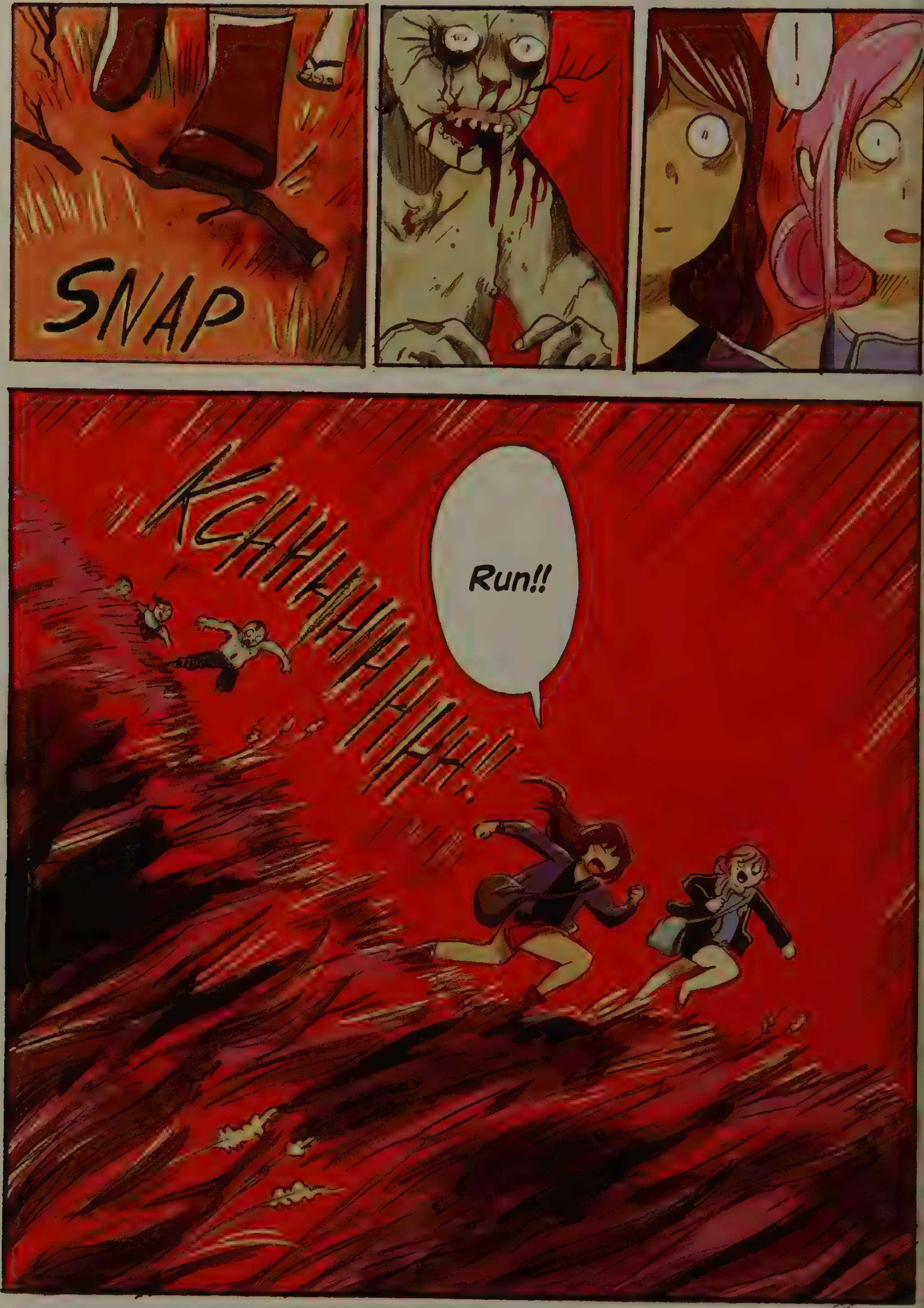

HAPPY Birthday, Eva
Let's cut the cake!
Yeah!
Hold on. That's too easy!
Quick, cover Eva's eyes!
Hands too, wrap 'em up!
Cut the cake! Cut the cake!
You guys are jerks.
I'm never inviting you to anything again!
AAHHHHHHHHHH
AHHH
Huh?
!!!

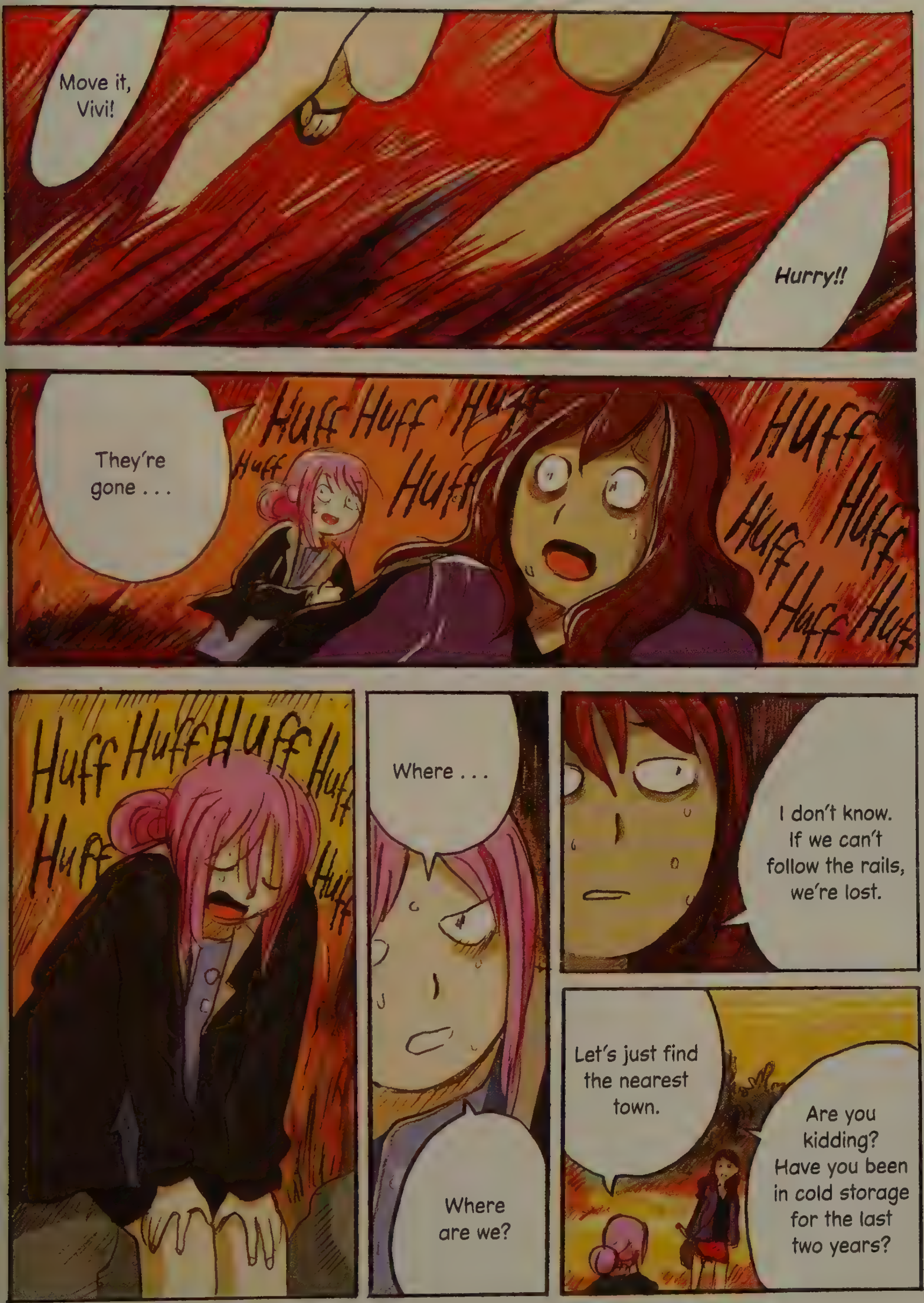

You fought the zombies off all by yourself?
That's amazing.
I wish I were that brave.
HUFF...
HUFF..
Is it over?
What the hell . . .
. . . *was* that?
Please. Let me in.
Hello?
Sorry.
We're not opening the door.
But . . .
Please.
. . .
OPEN
CLOSE
KCHHHH
Beep!

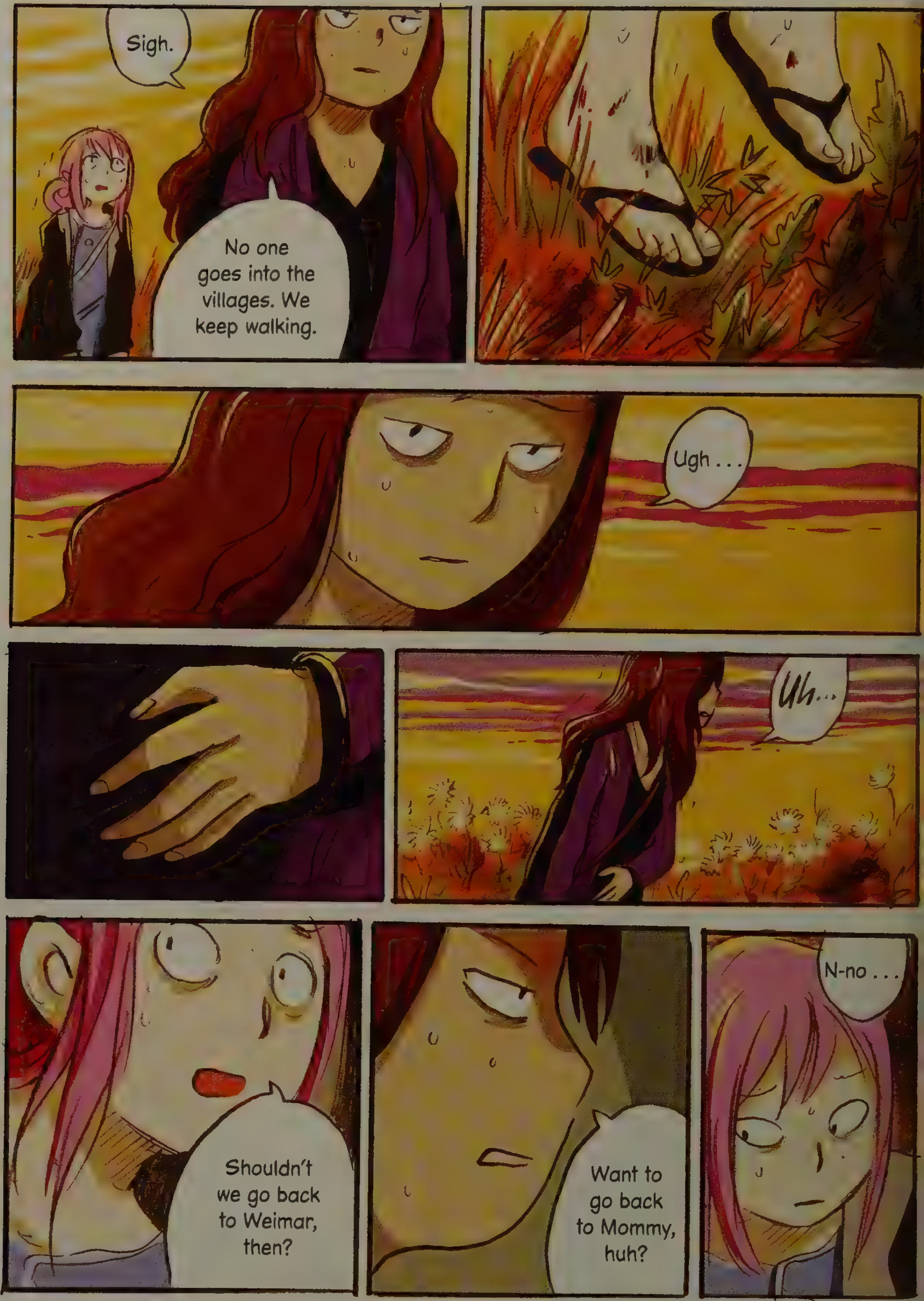

WRRR
What!?
No!
AHHH!
Can you walk in front again?
I feel safer that way . . .

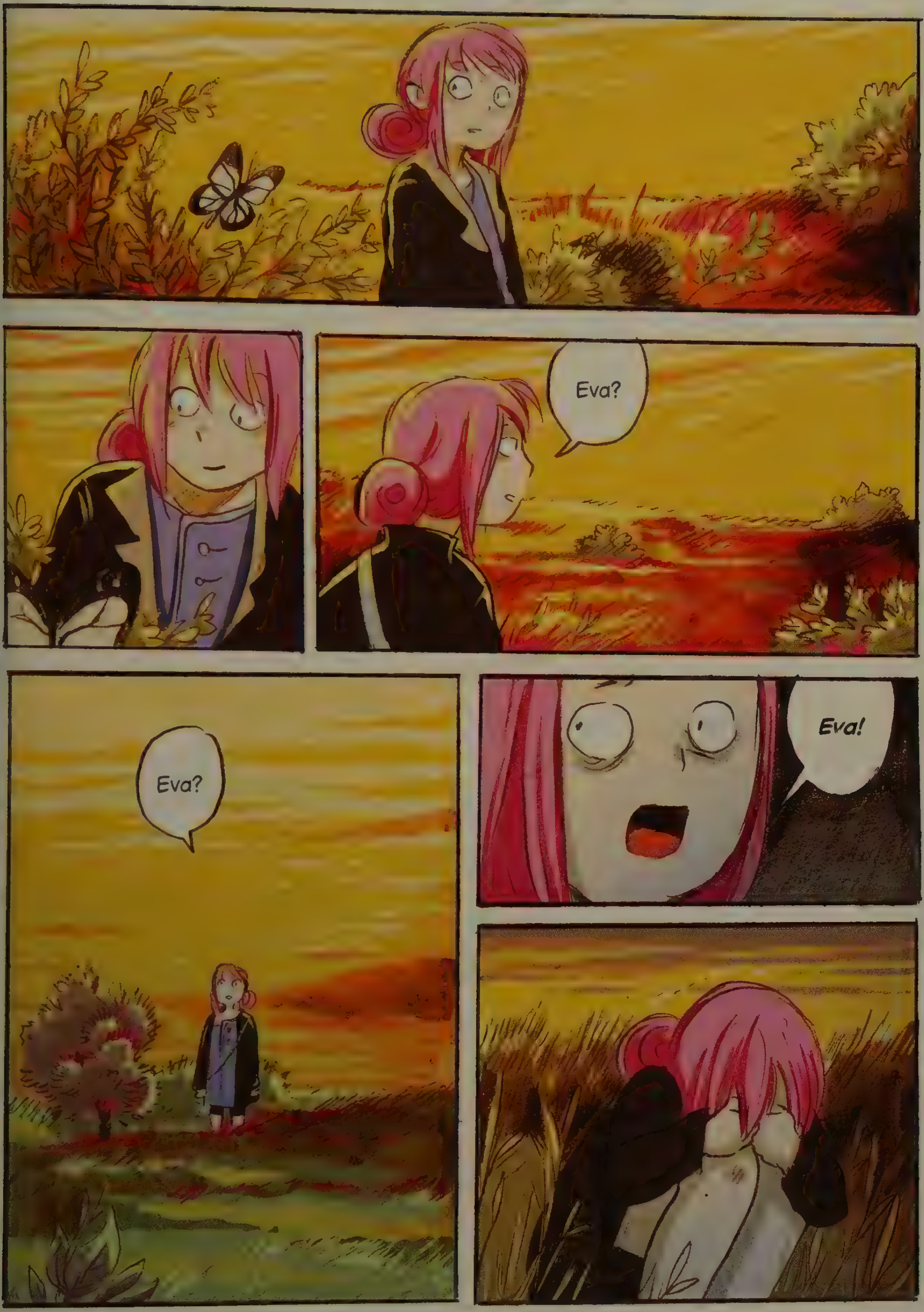

KZZ
KZZ
KZZ

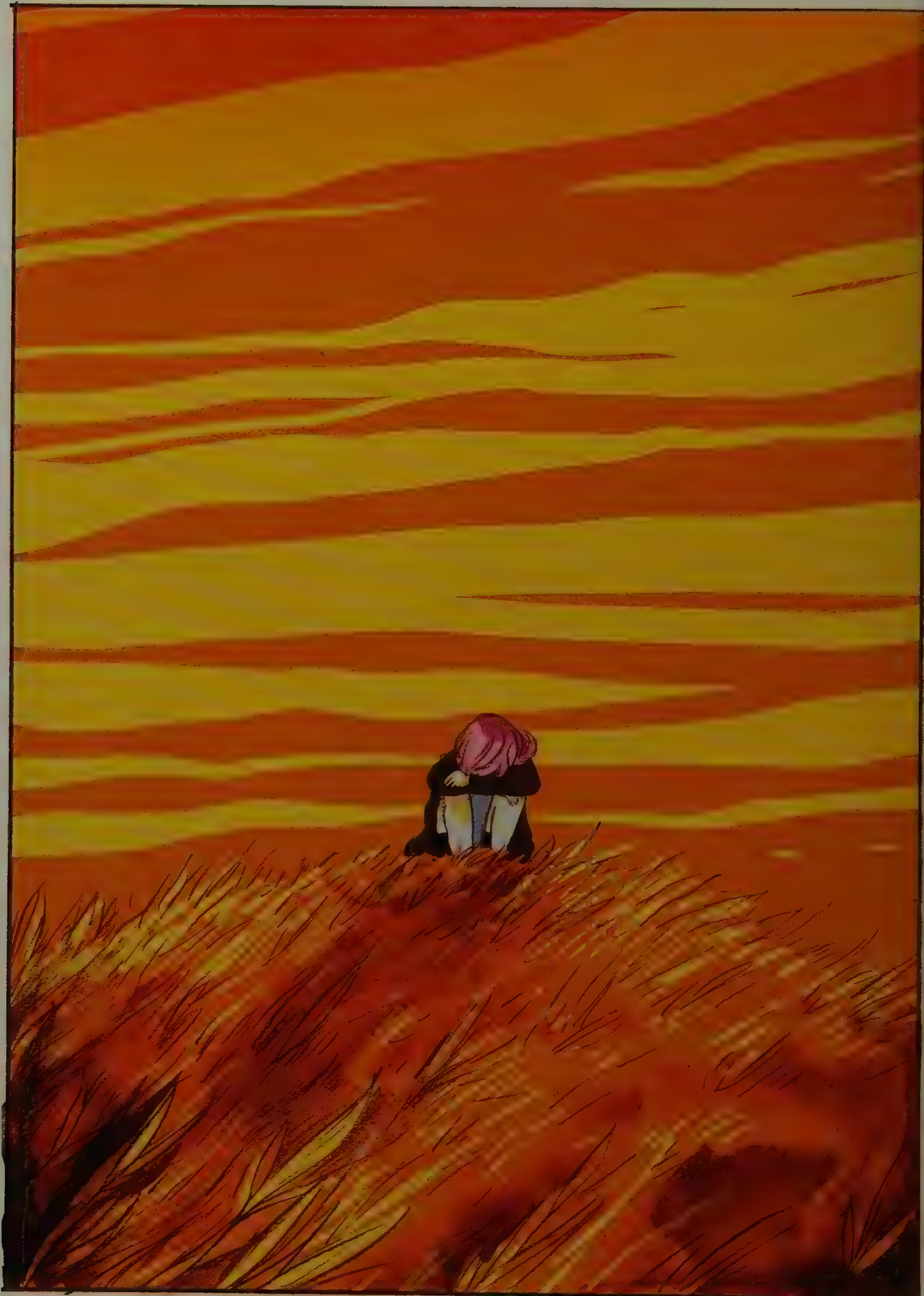

Huh?
It's . . .
KCHHHHH
No . . .
That was our rescue team!
What!?
No! No!
Dammit!
It's okay, right??
They'll get up soon!
They're not getting up.
They turned the guns on themselves.
We can forget about armed help.
Come on.

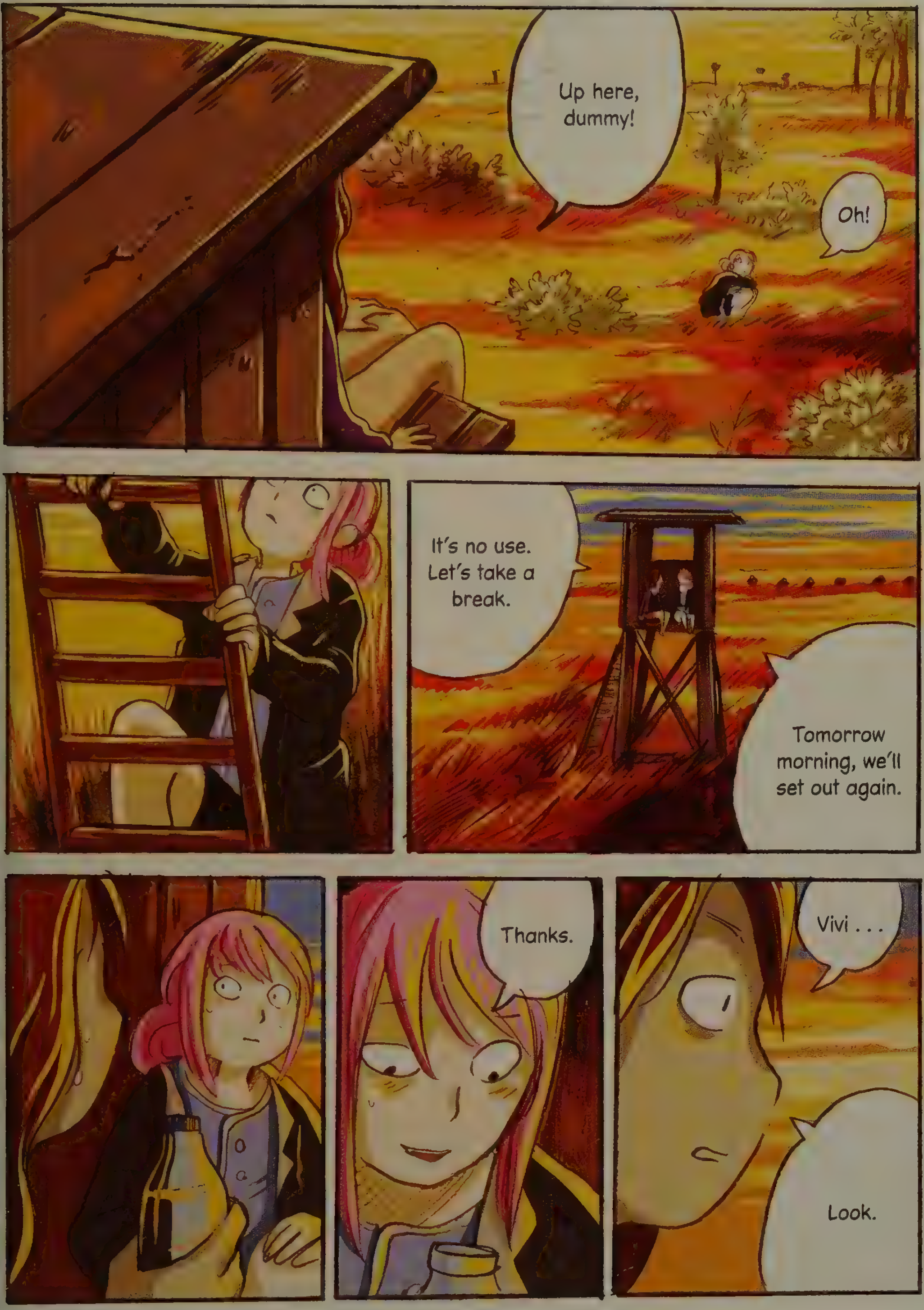

SNAP
!
KCHHHHHHHHHH!
Run!!

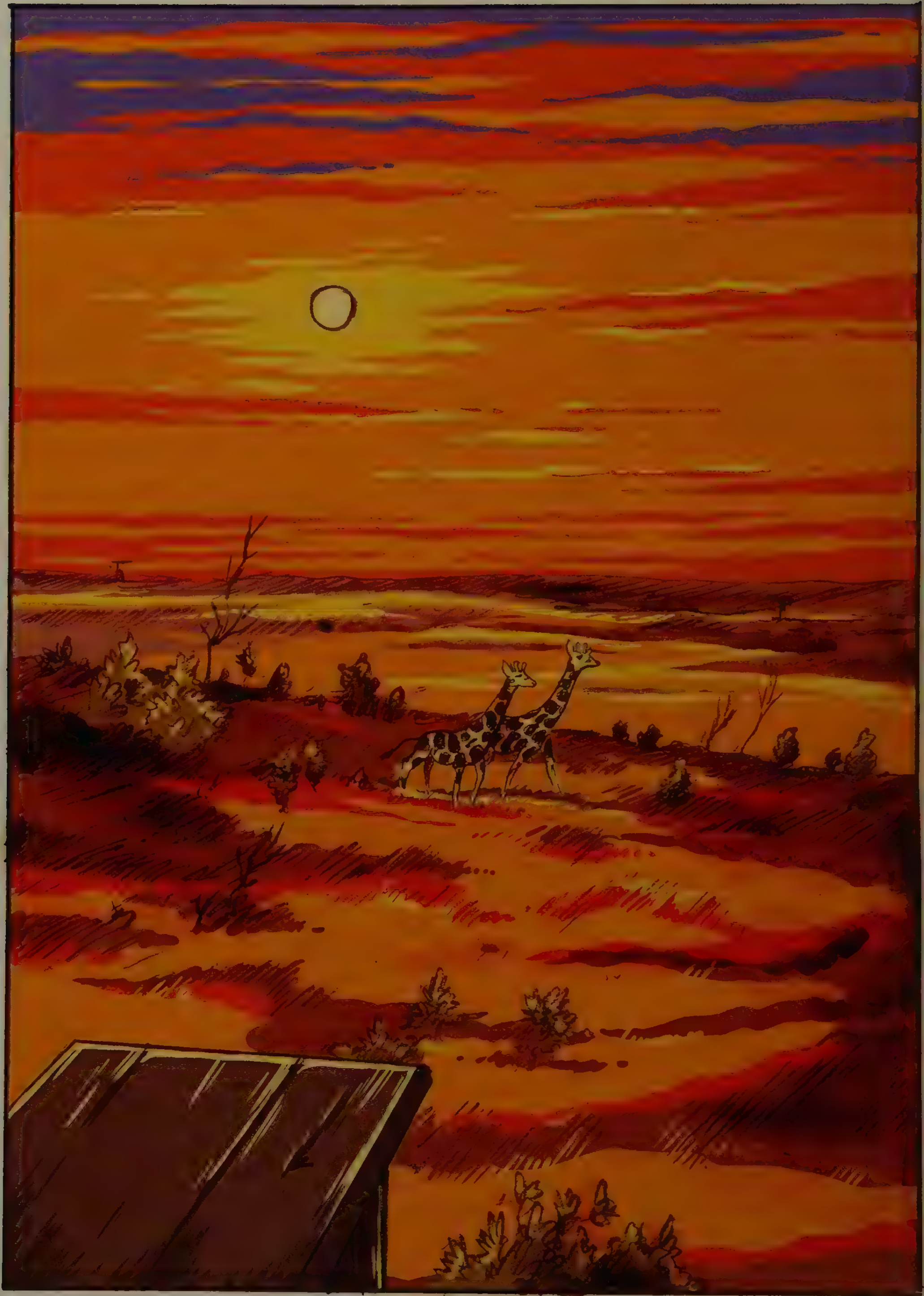

Move it, Vivi!
Hurry!!
They're gone . . .
Huff Huff Huff Huff Huff
Huff Huff Huff Huff Huff Huff
Huff Huff Huff Huff Huff Huff Huff
Where . . .
Where are we?
I don't know. If we can't follow the rails, we're lost.
Let's just find the nearest town.
Are you kidding? Have you been in cold storage for the last two years?

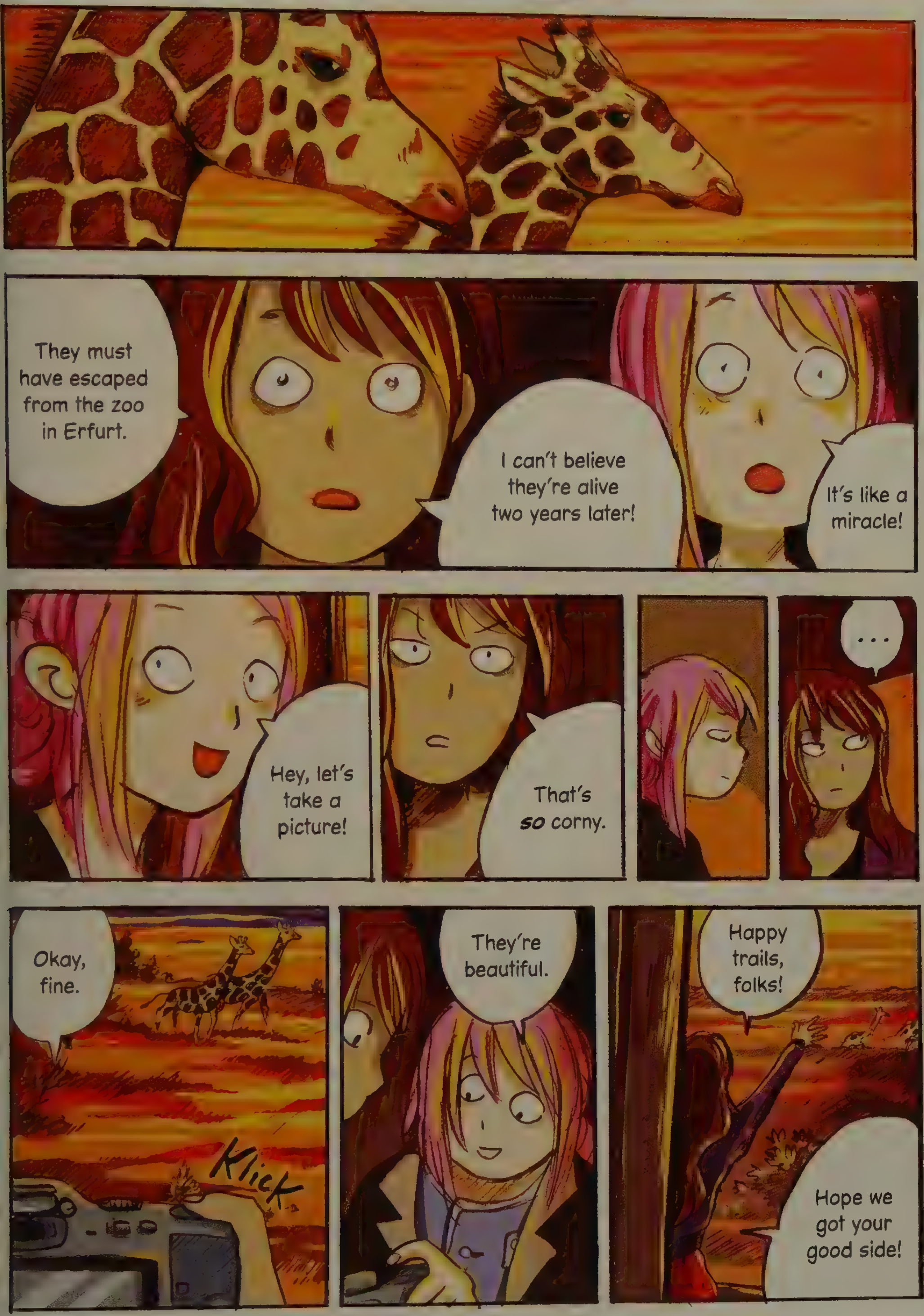

Sigh.
No one goes into the villages. We keep walking.
Ugh . . .
Uh...
Shouldn't we go back to Weimar, then?
Want to go back to Mommy, huh?
N-no . . .

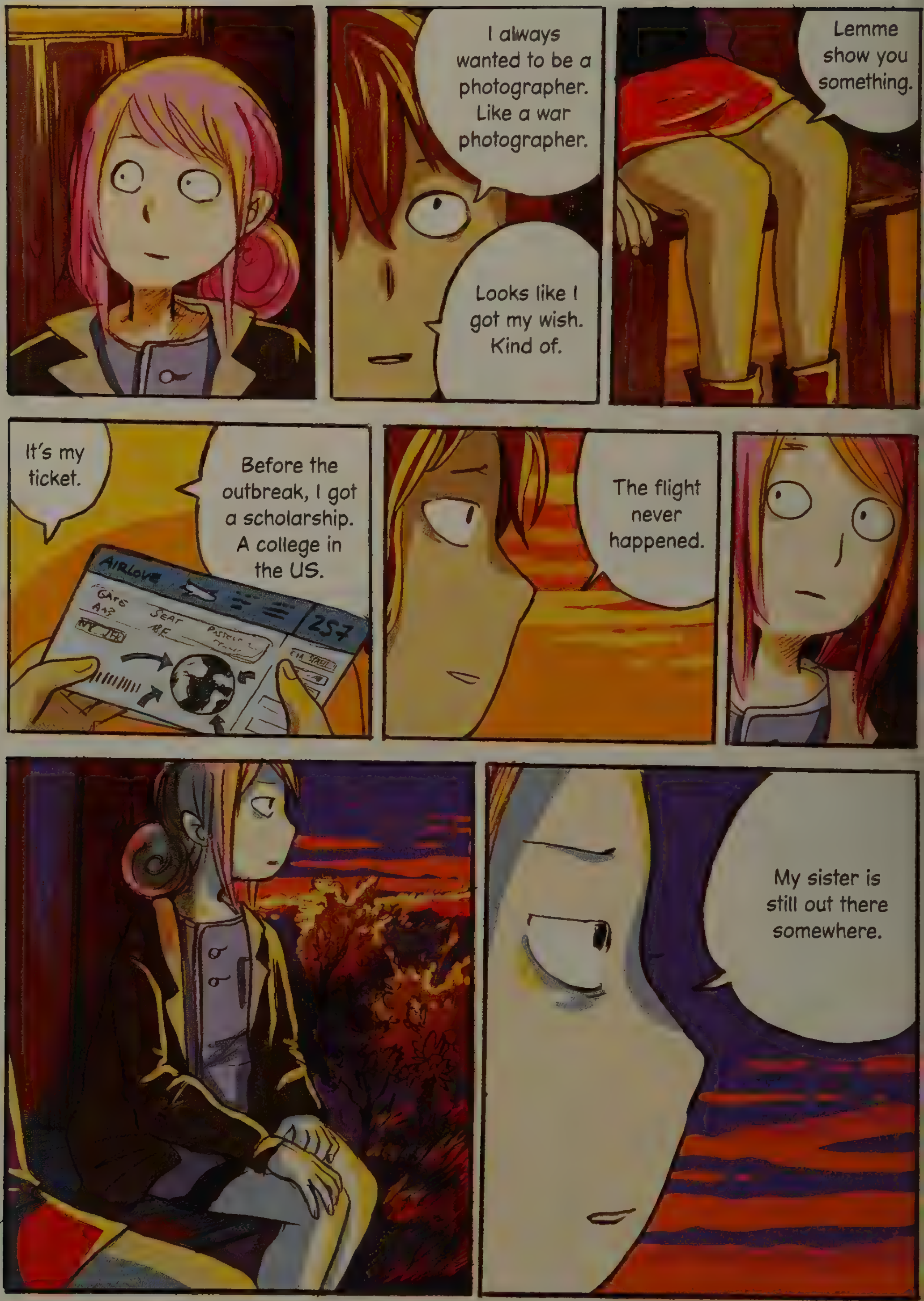

Eva?
Eva?
Eva!

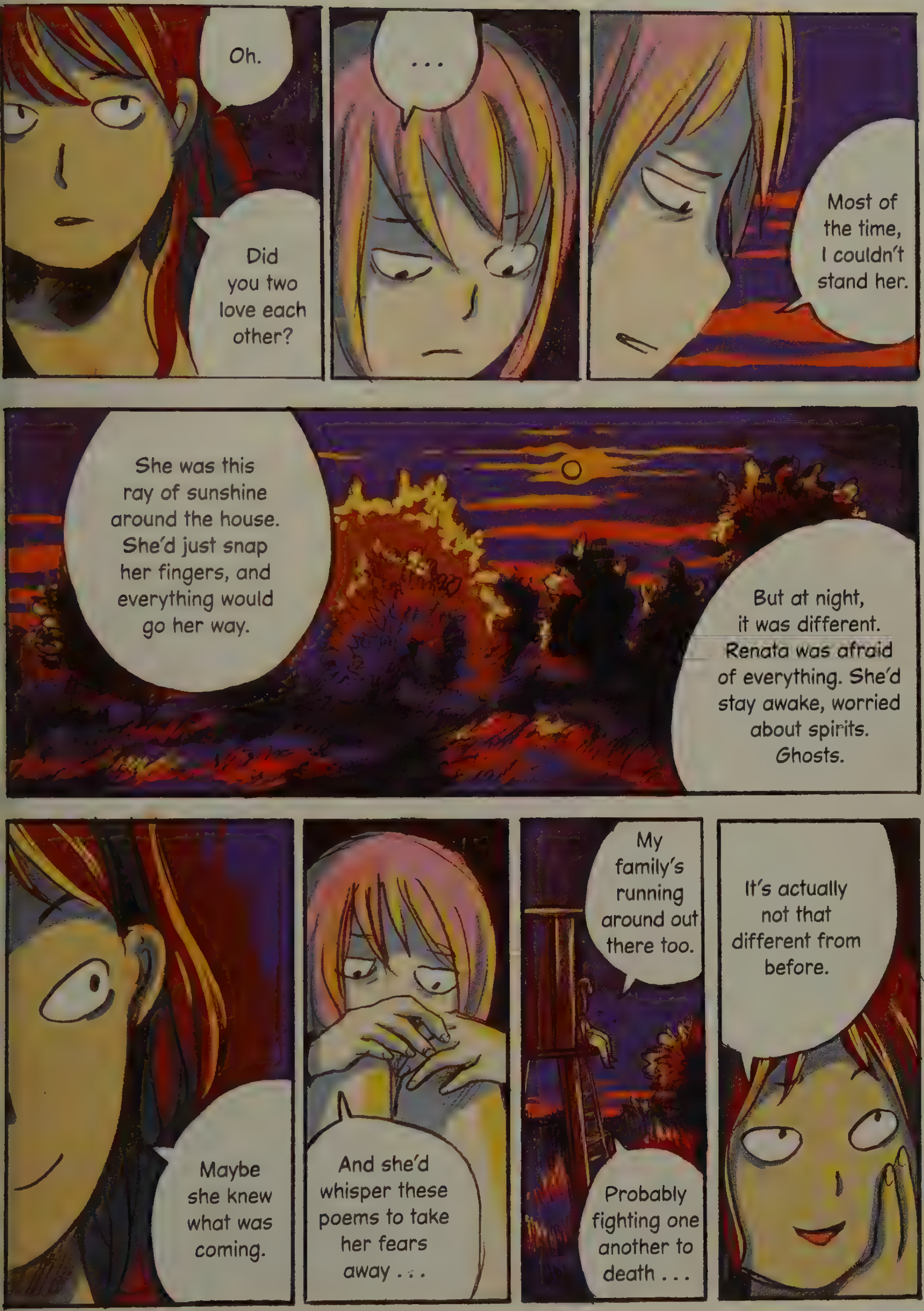


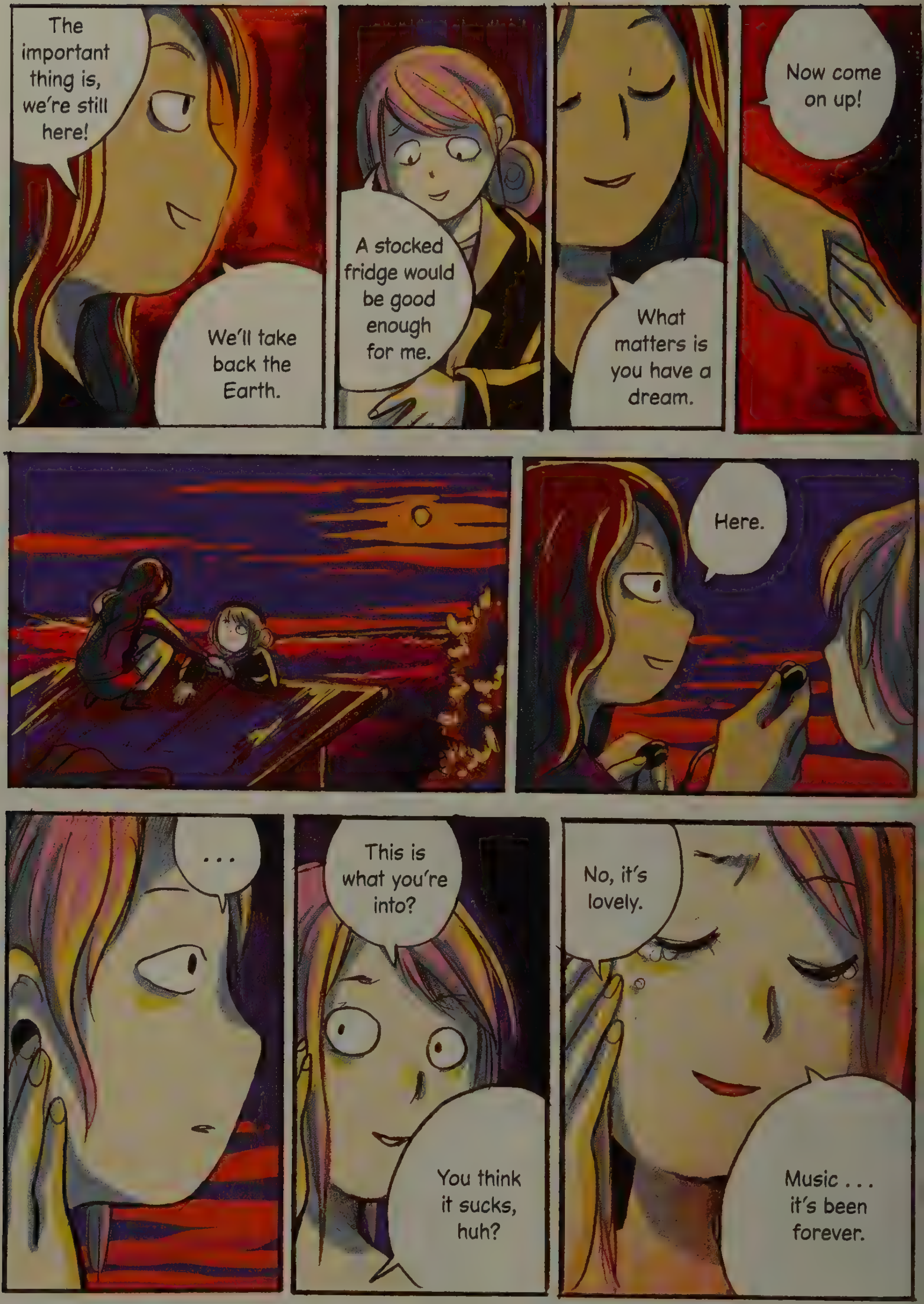

Up here, dummy!
Oh!
It's no use. Let's take a break.
Tomorrow morning, we'll set out again.
Thanks.
Vivi . . .
Look.

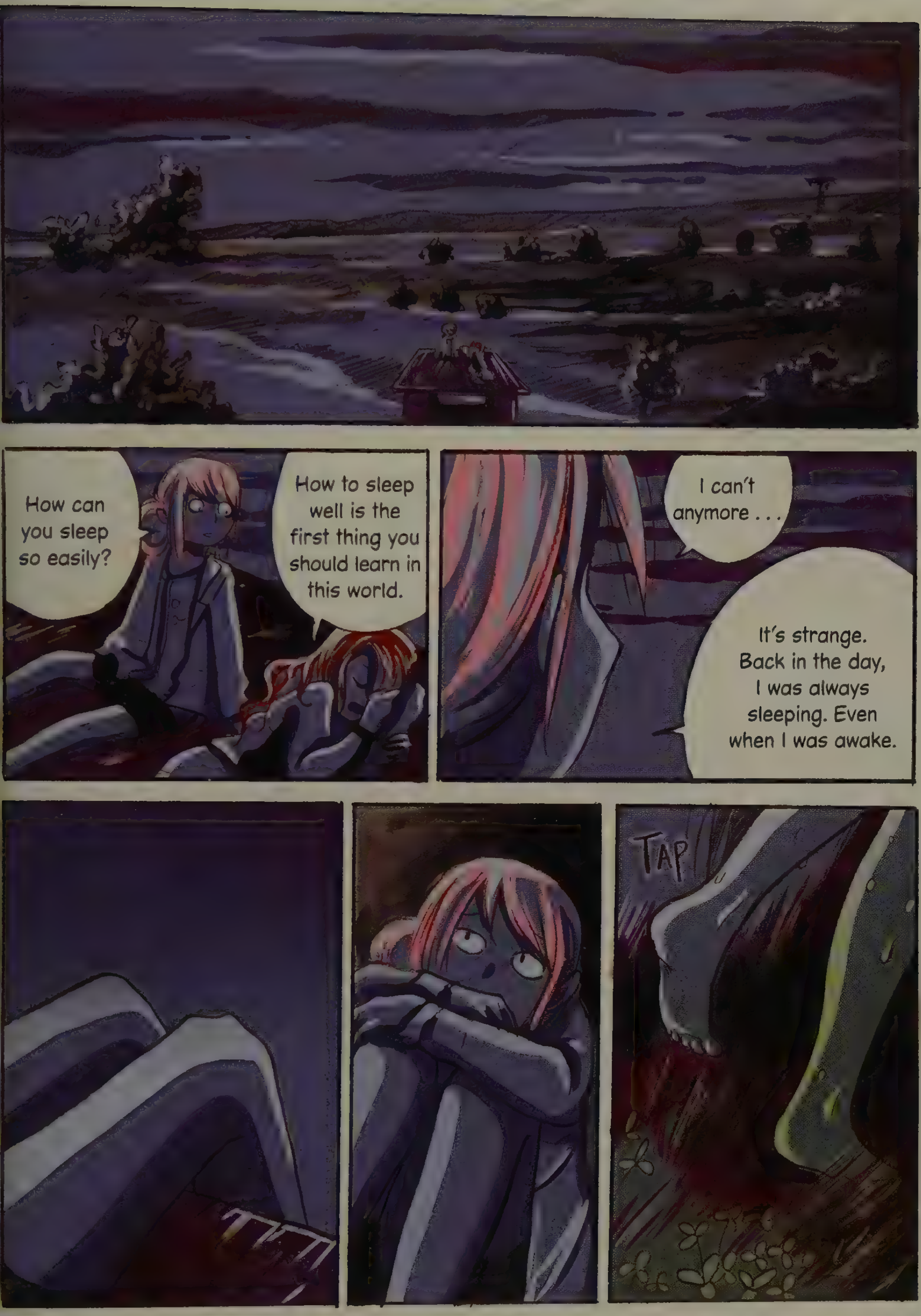


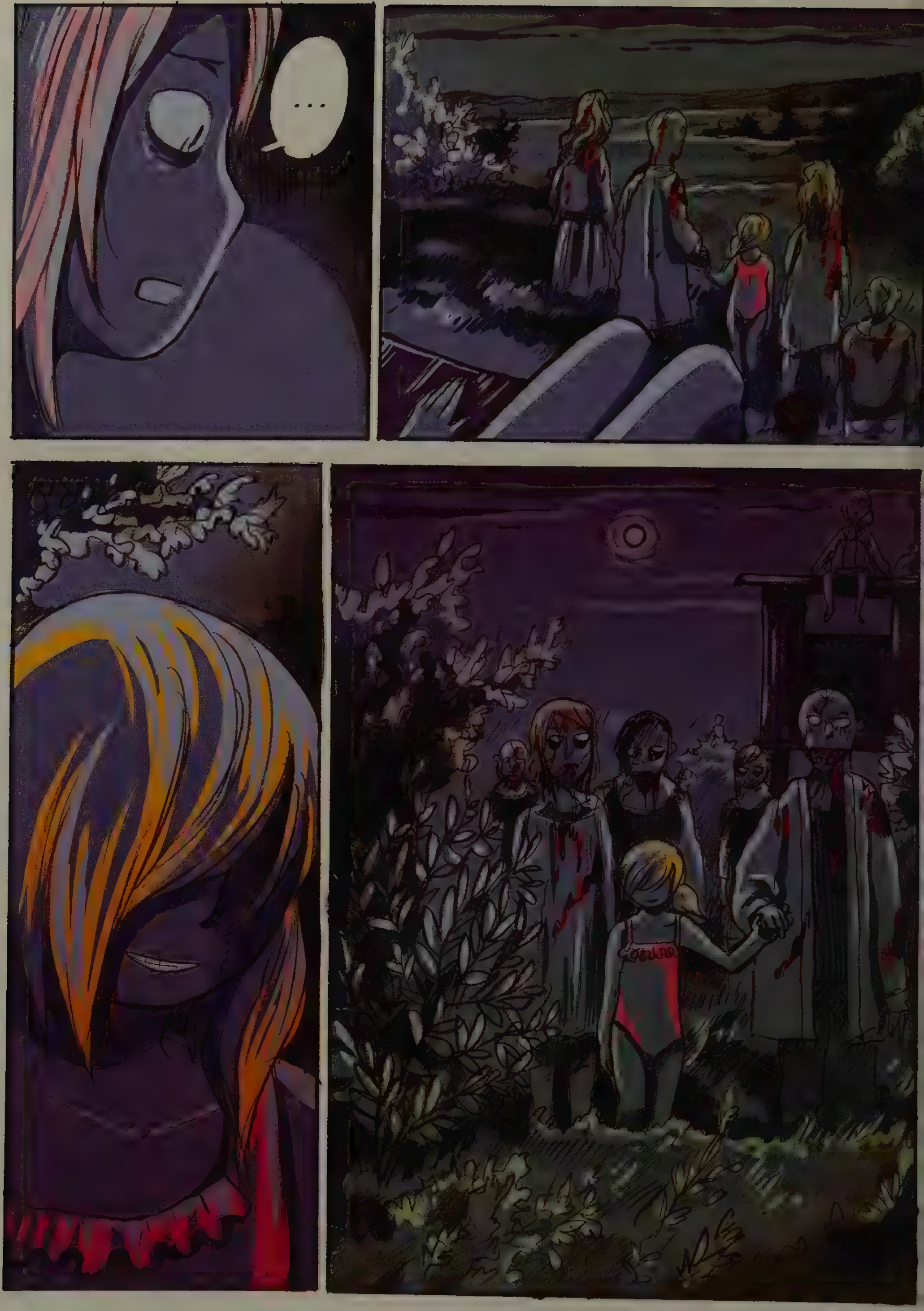

They must have escaped from the zoo in Erfurt.
I can't believe they're alive two years later!
It's like a miracle!
Hey, let's take a picture!
That's *so* corny.
. . .
Okay, fine.
Klick
They're beautiful.
Happy trails, folks!
Hope we got your good side!

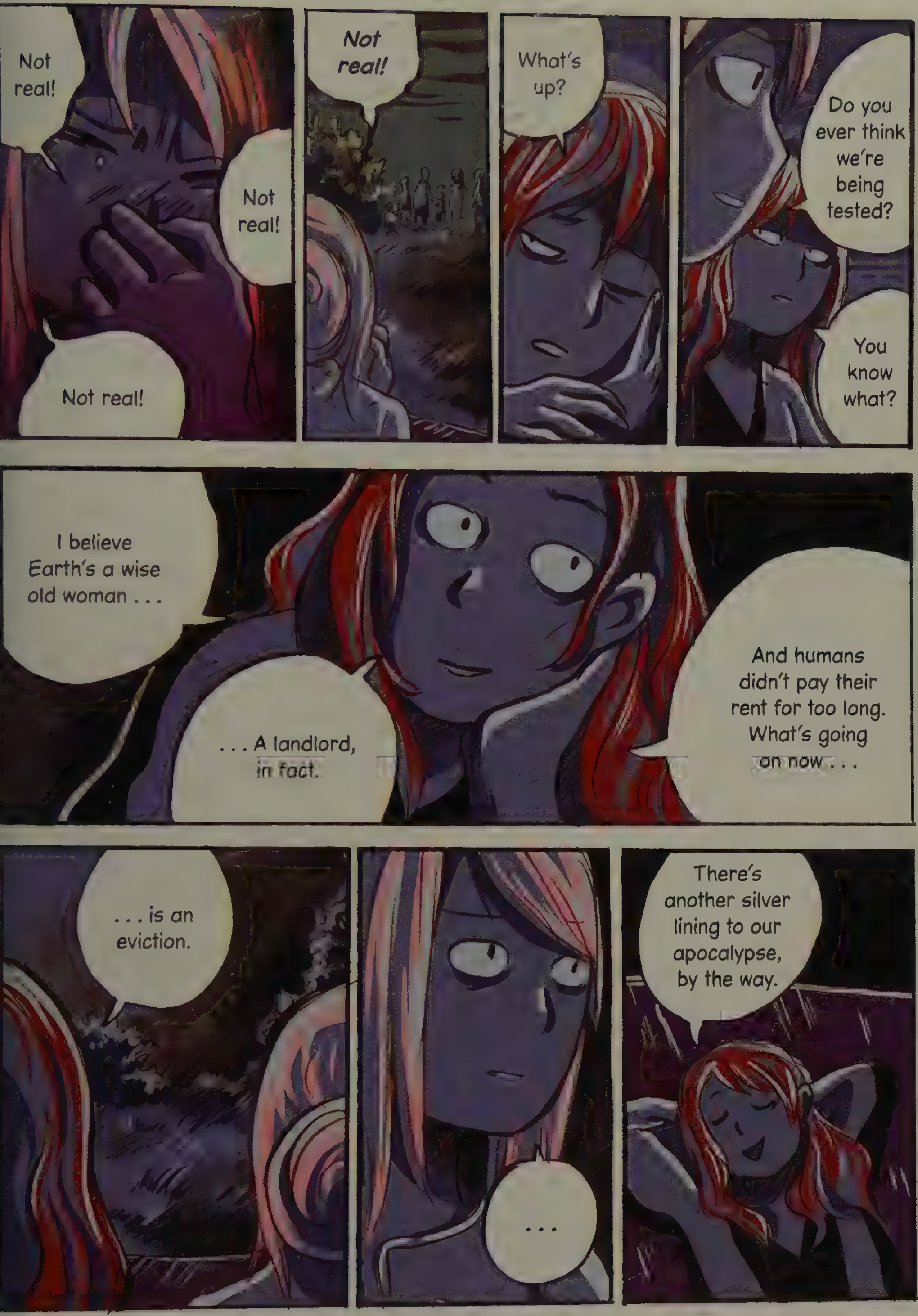

I always wanted to be a photographer. Like a war photographer.
Looks like I got my wish. Kind of.
Lemme show you something.
It's my ticket.
Before the outbreak, I got a scholarship. A college in the US.
AIRLOVE
257
The flight never happened.
My sister is still out there somewhere.

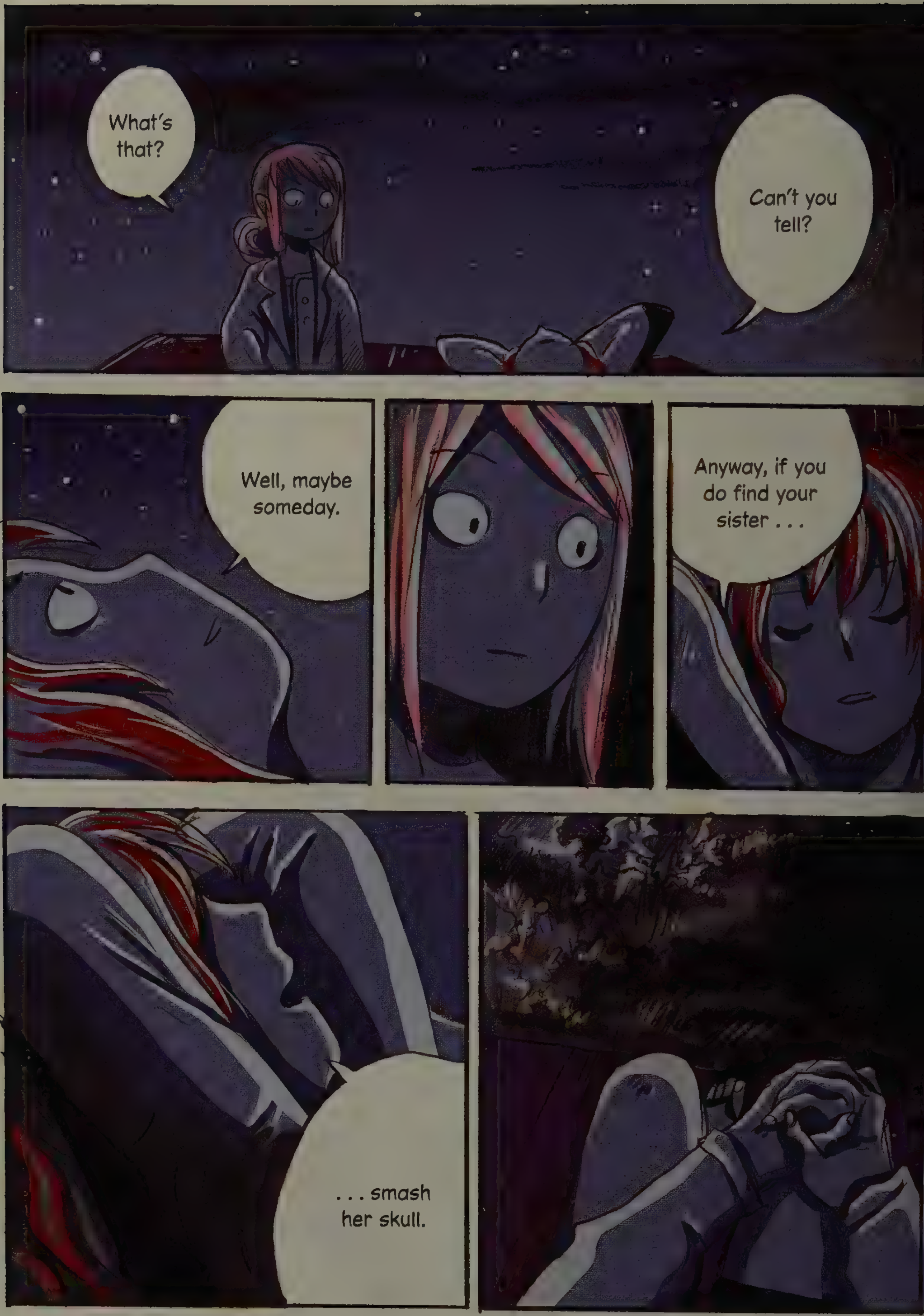

Oh.
Did you two love each other?
. . .
Most of the time, I couldn't stand her.
She was this ray of sunshine around the house. She'd just snap her fingers, and everything would go her way.
But at night, it was different. Renata was afraid of everything. She'd stay awake, worried about spirits. Ghosts.
Maybe she knew what was coming.
And she'd whisper these poems to take her fears away . . .
My family's running around out there too.
Probably fighting one another to death . . .
It's actually not that different from before.

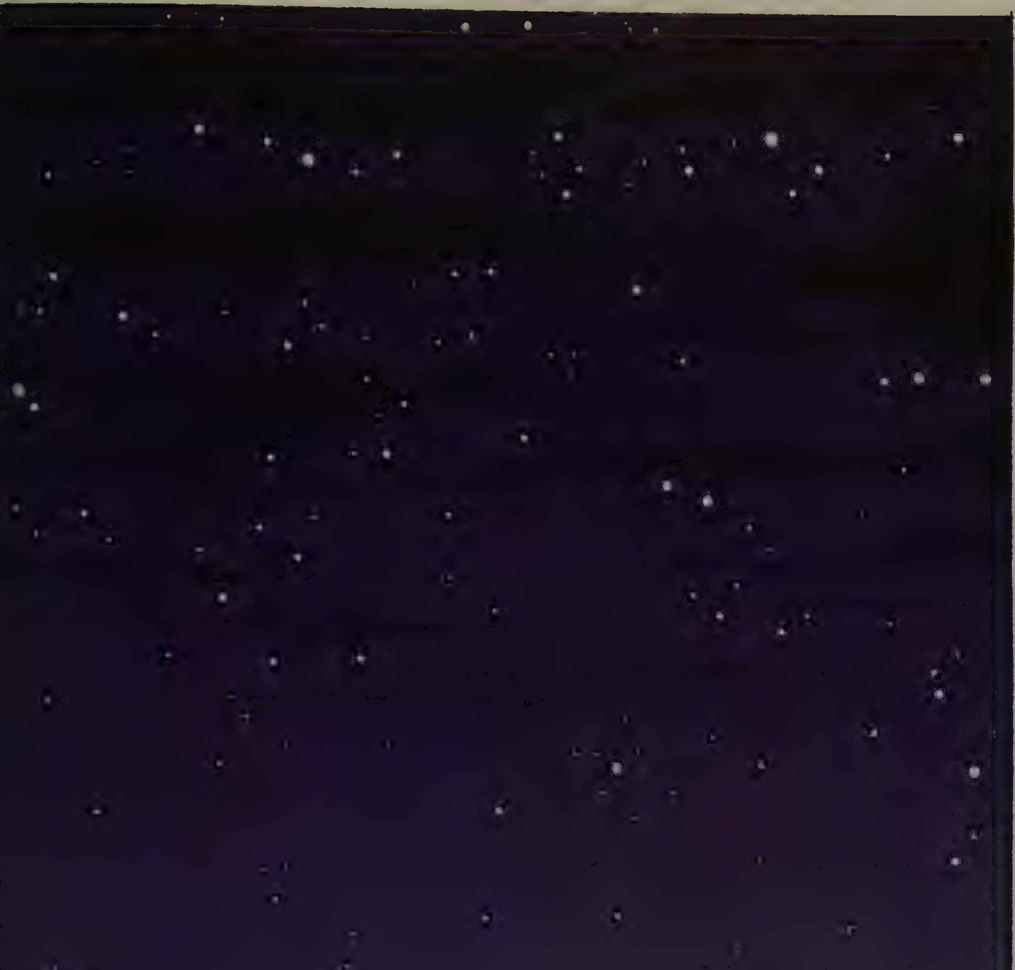

The important thing is, we're still here!
We'll take back the Earth.
A stocked fridge would be good enough for me.
What matters is you have a dream.
Now come on up!
Here.
. . .
This is what you're into?
You think it sucks, huh?
No, it's lovely.
Music . . . it's been forever.

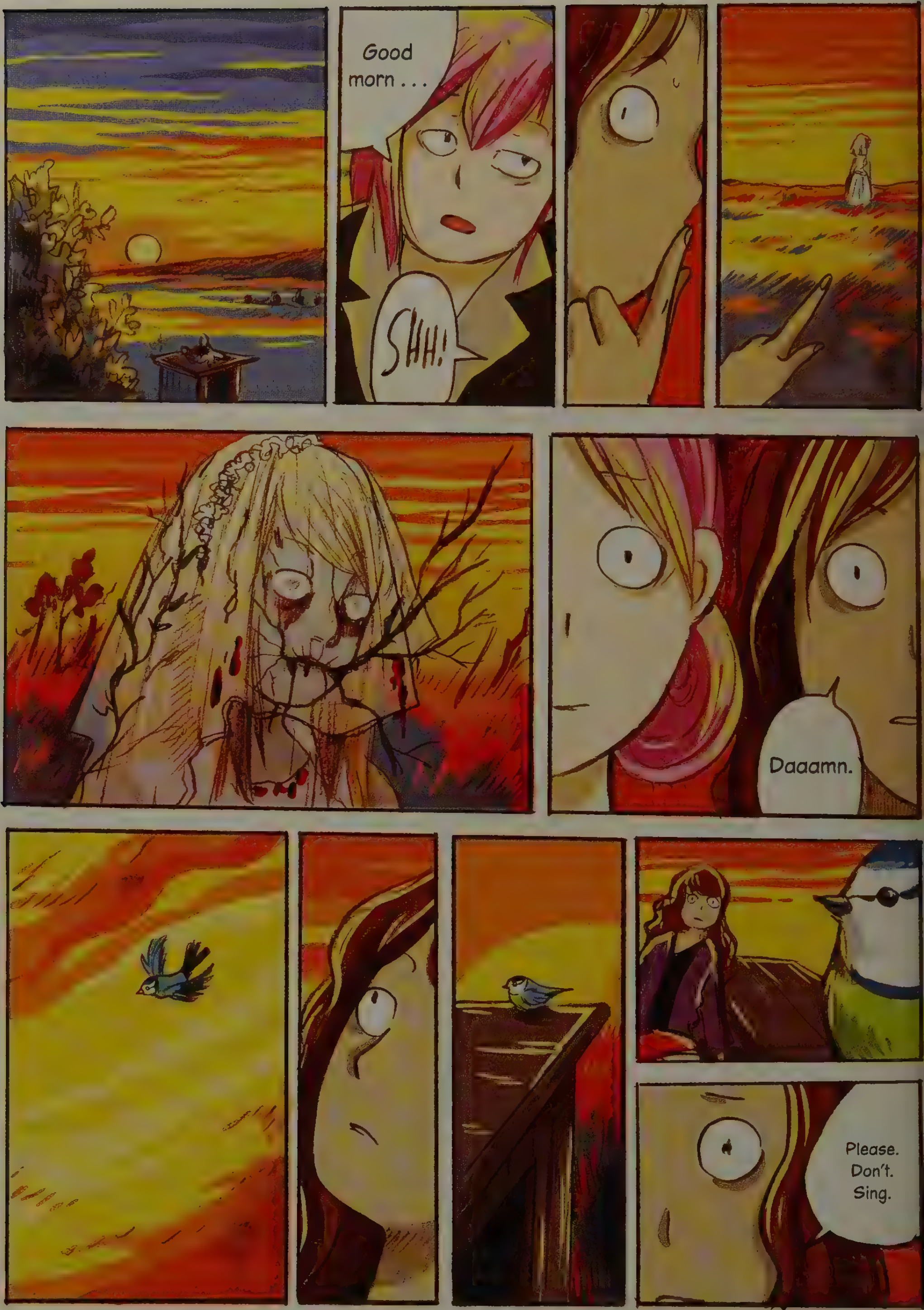

How can you sleep so easily?
How to sleep well is the first thing you should learn in this world.
I can't anymore . . .
It's strange. Back in the day, I was always sleeping. Even when I was awake.
TAP

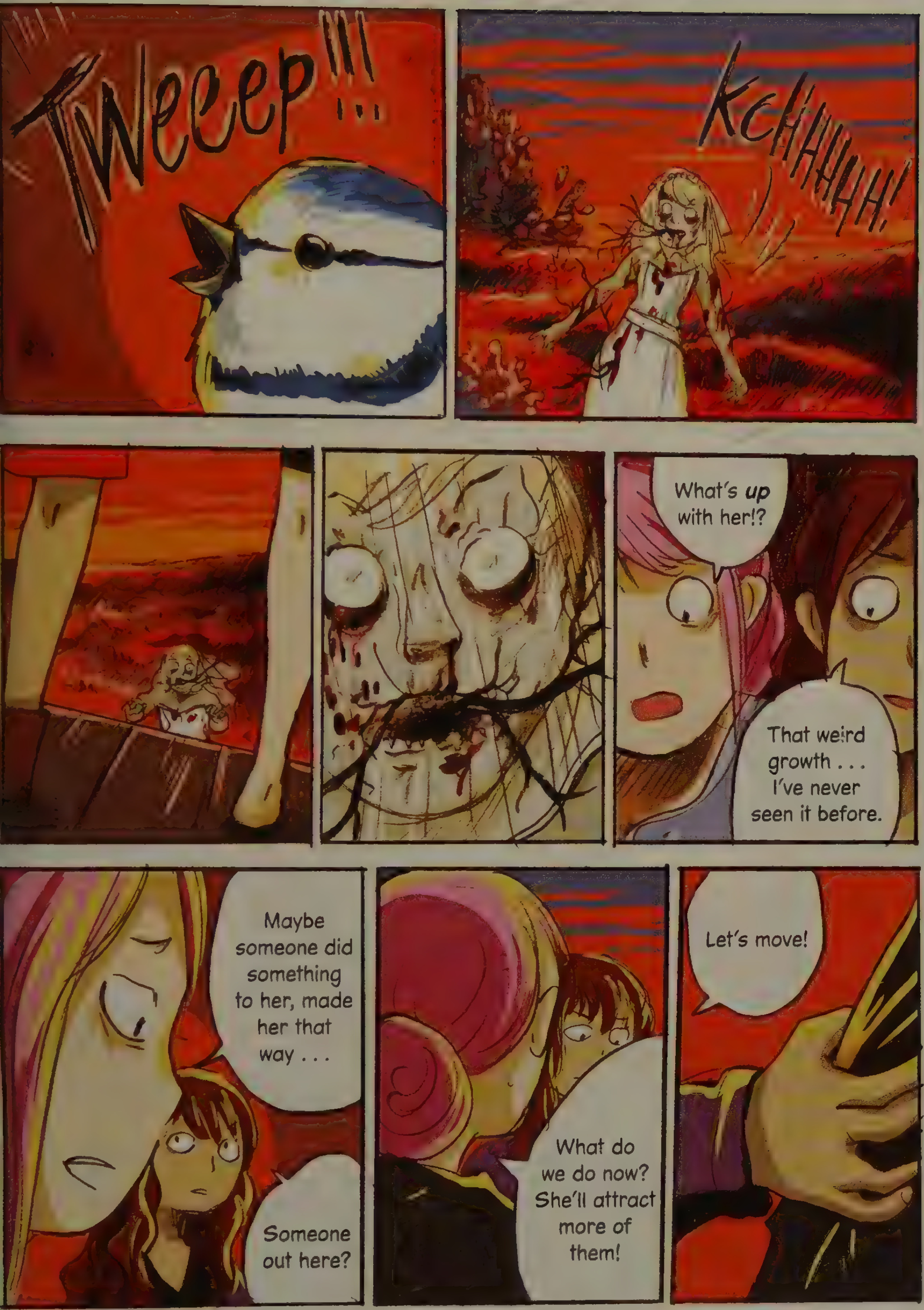


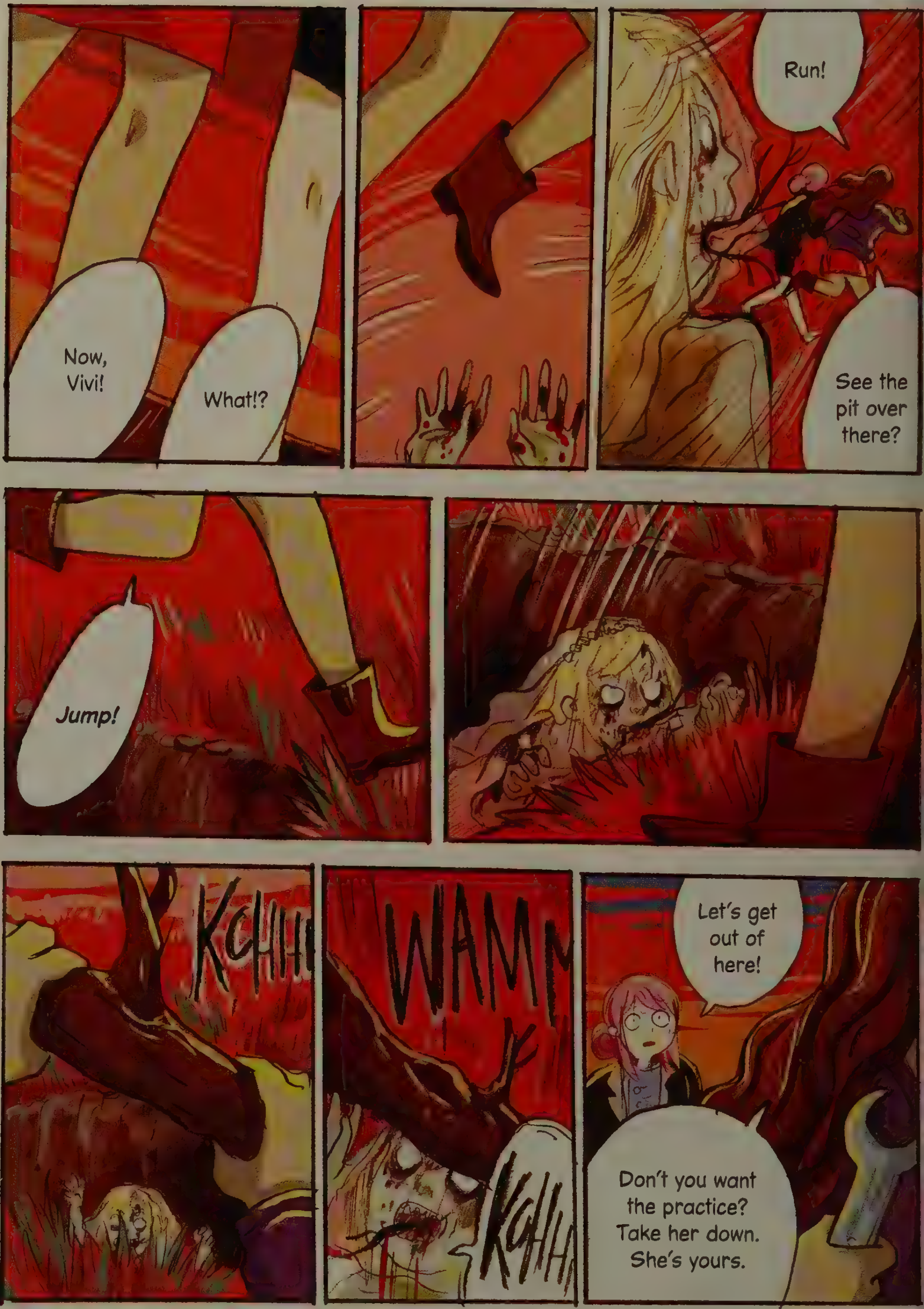

Not real!
Not real!
Not real!
Not real!
What's up?
Do you ever think we're being tested?
You know what?
I believe Earth's a wise old woman . . .
. . . A landlord, in fact.
And humans didn't pay their rent for too long. What's going on now . . .
. . . is an eviction.
. . .
There's another silver lining to our apocalypse, by the way.

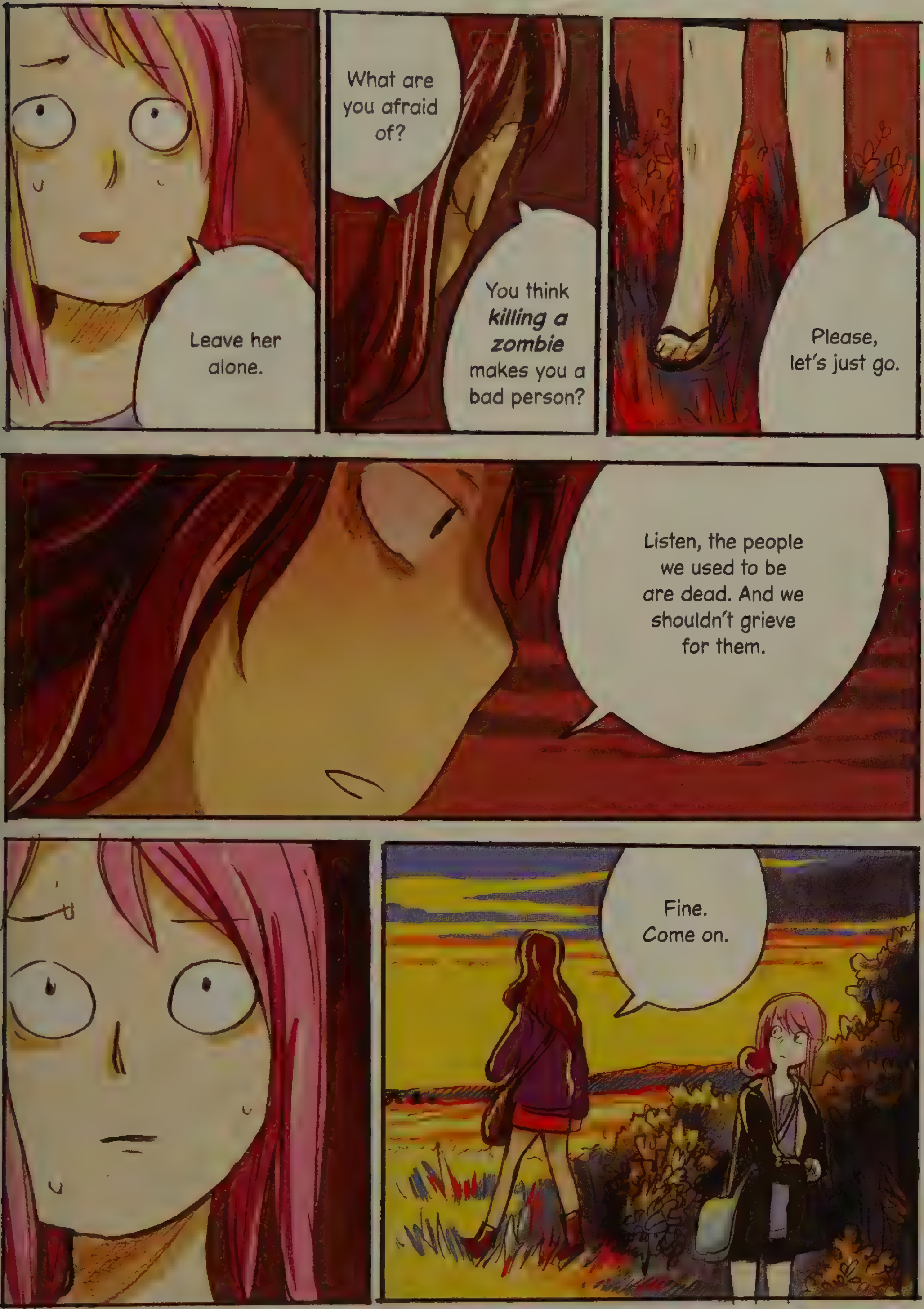

What's that?
Can't you tell?
Well, maybe someday.
Anyway, if you do find your sister . . .
. . . smash her skull.

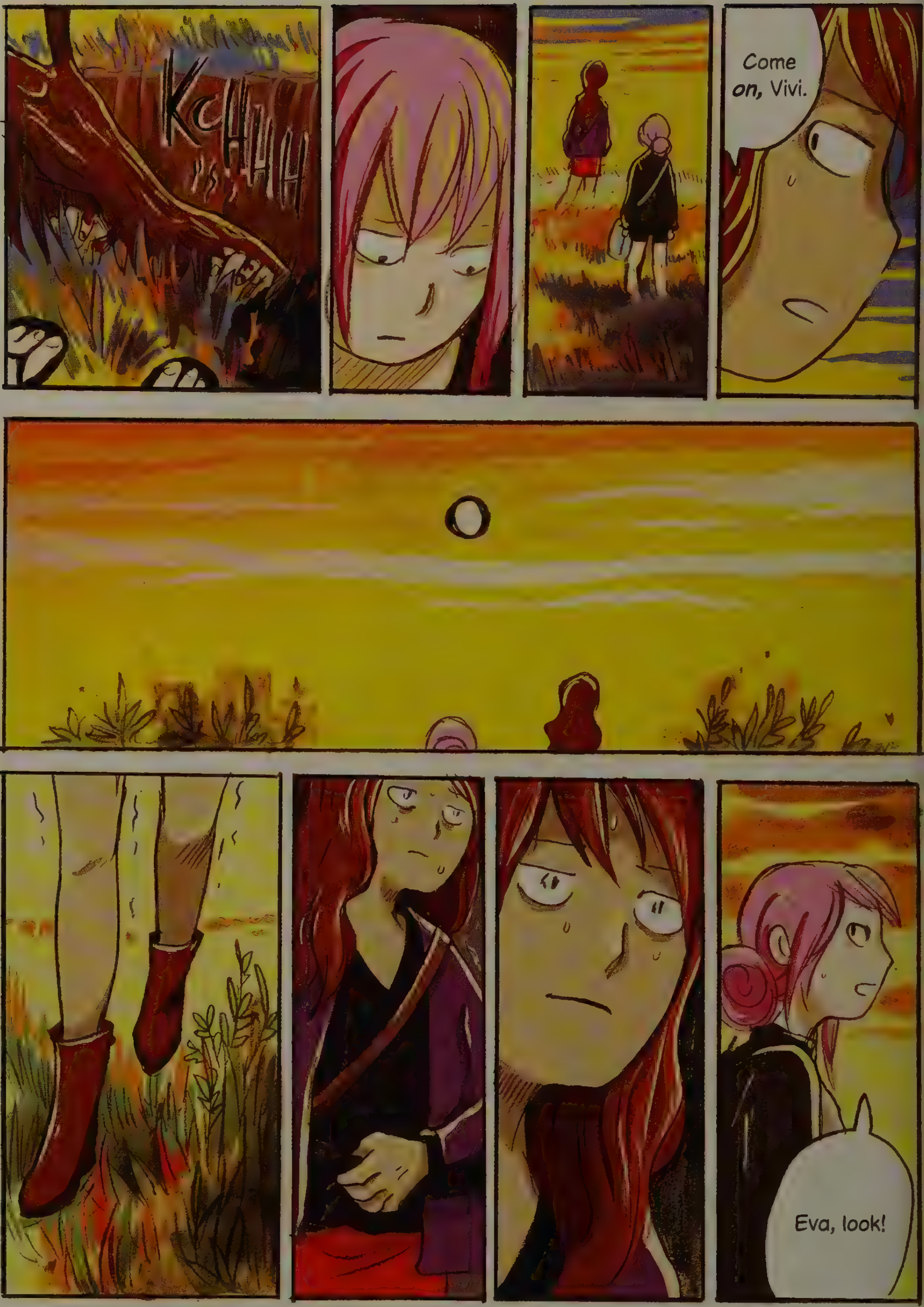


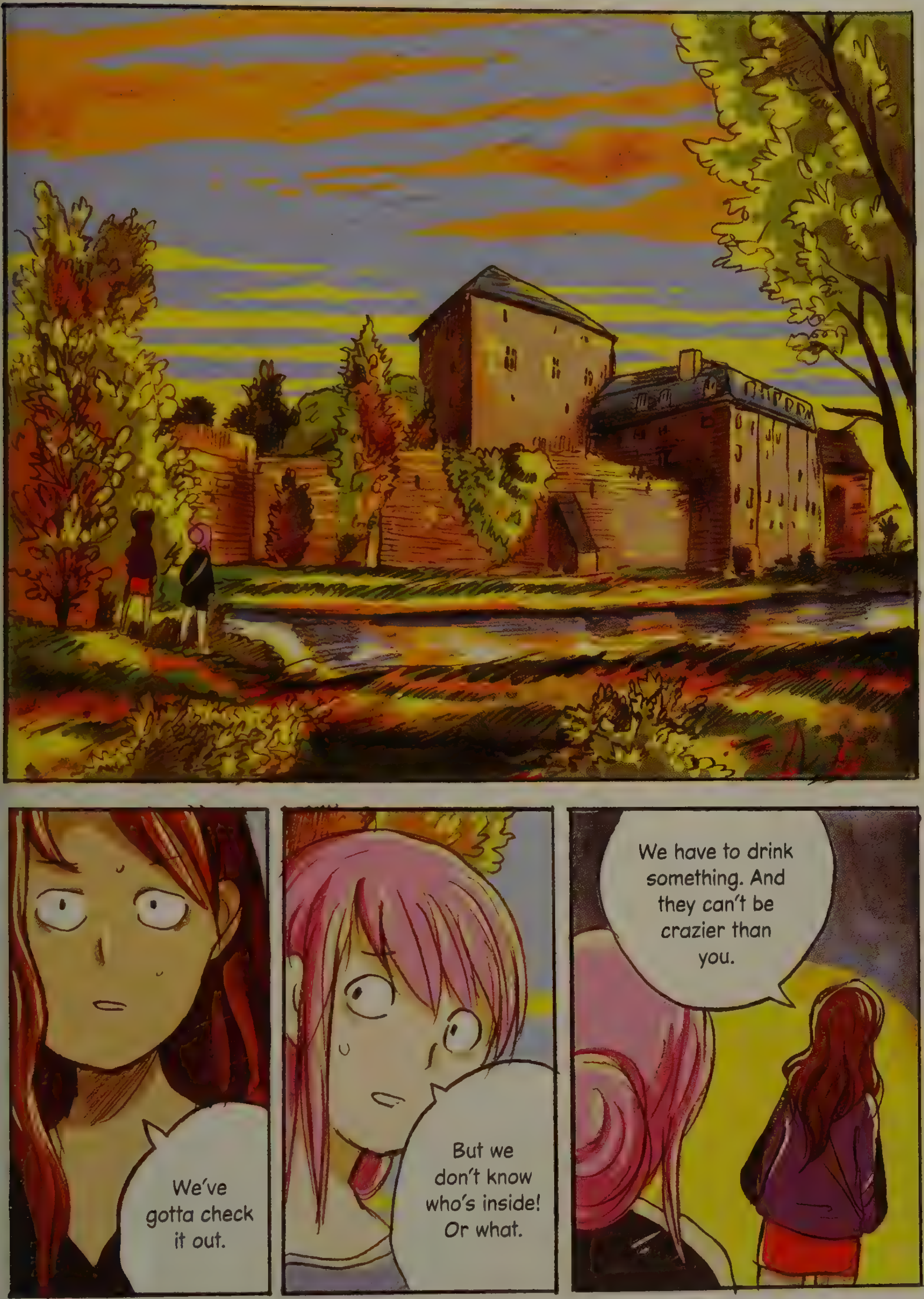

Good morn . . .
SHH!
Daaamn.
Please. Don't. Sing.

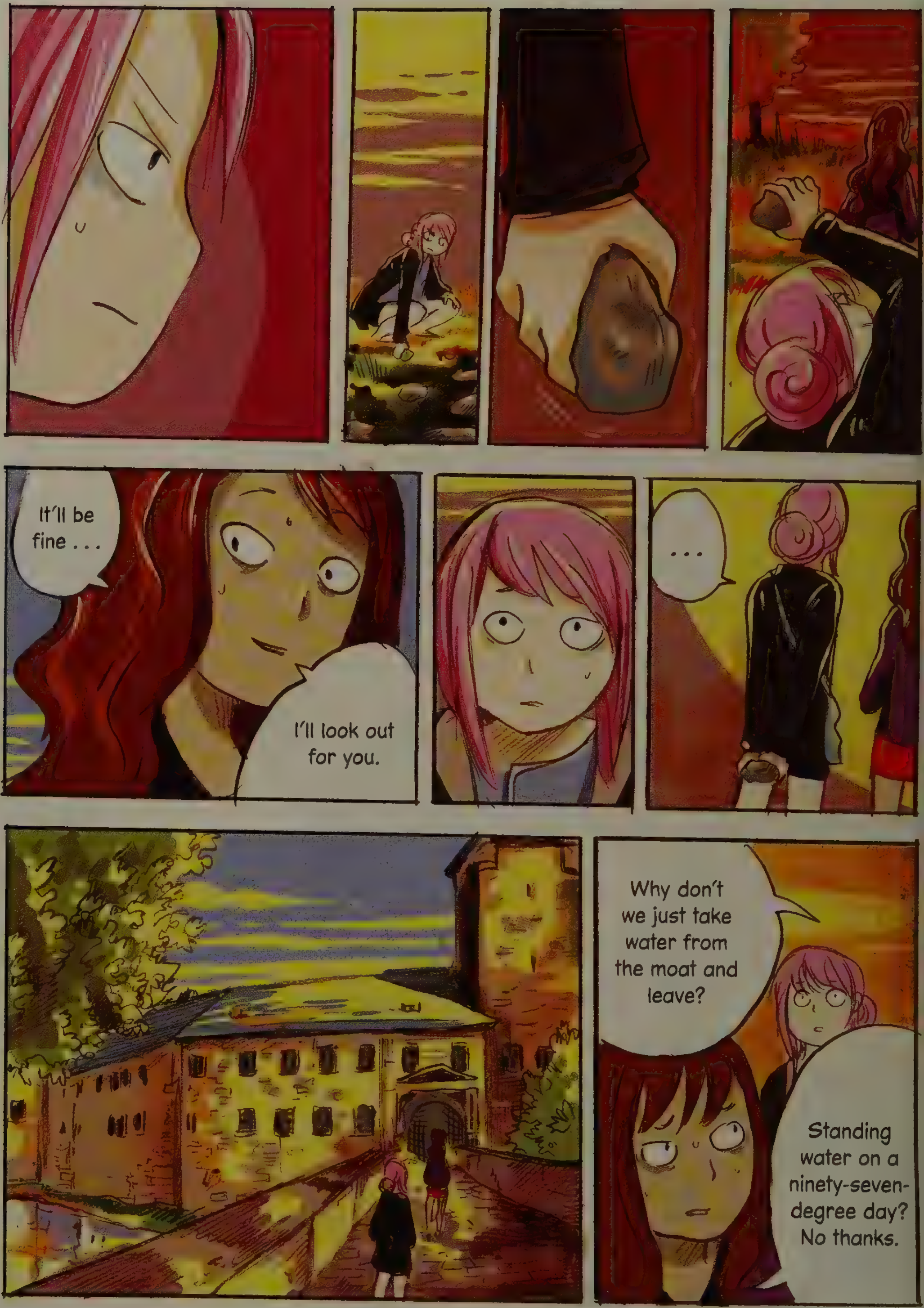

Tweeep!!!
kchhhhhh!
What's *up* with her!?
That weird growth . . . I've never seen it before.
Maybe someone did something to her, made her that way . . .
Someone out here?
What do we do now? She'll attract more of them!
Let's move!

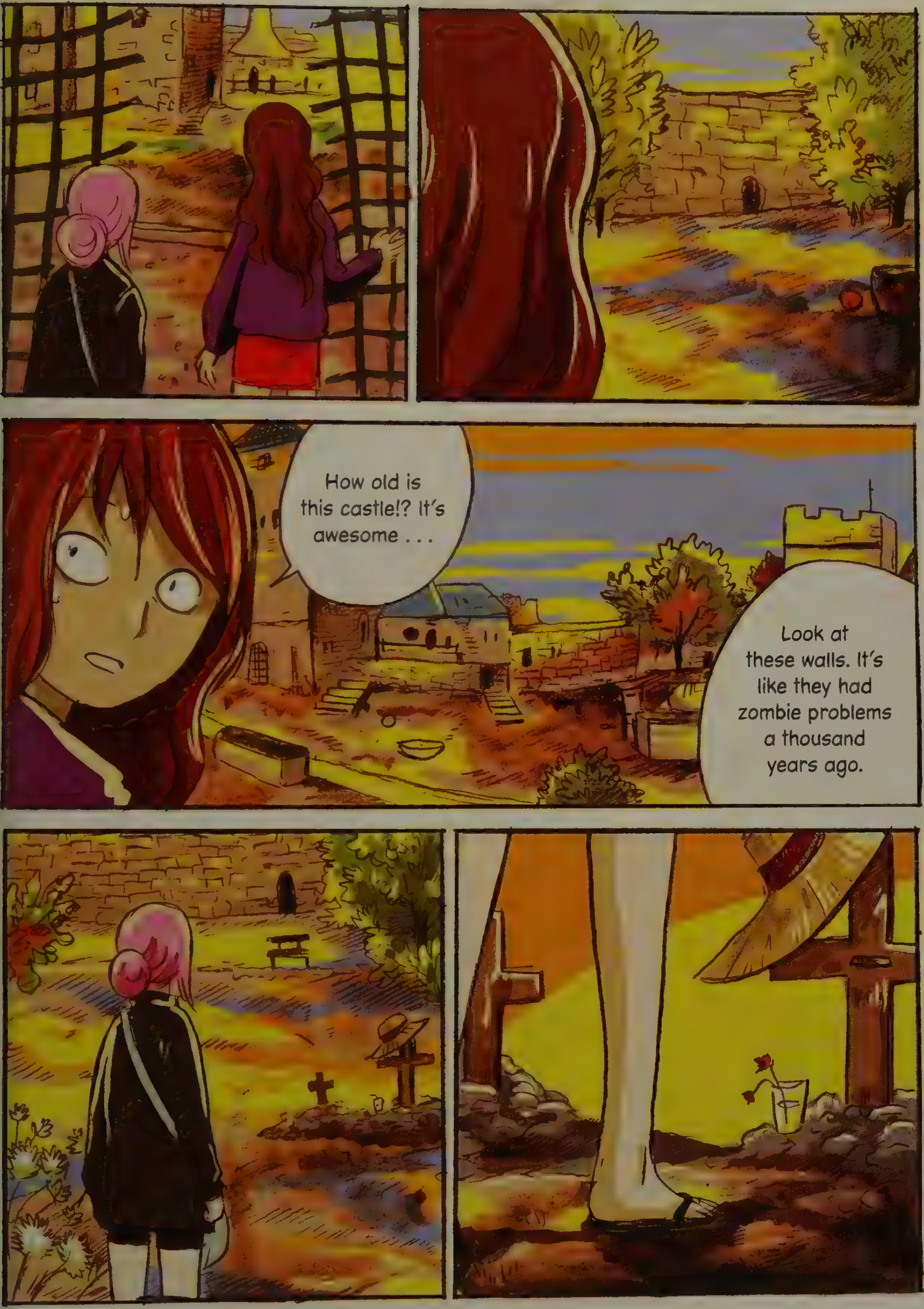

Now, Vivi!
What!?
Run!
See the pit over there?
Jump!
KCHH
WAMM
KCHH
Let's get out of here!
Don't you want the practice? Take her down. She's yours.

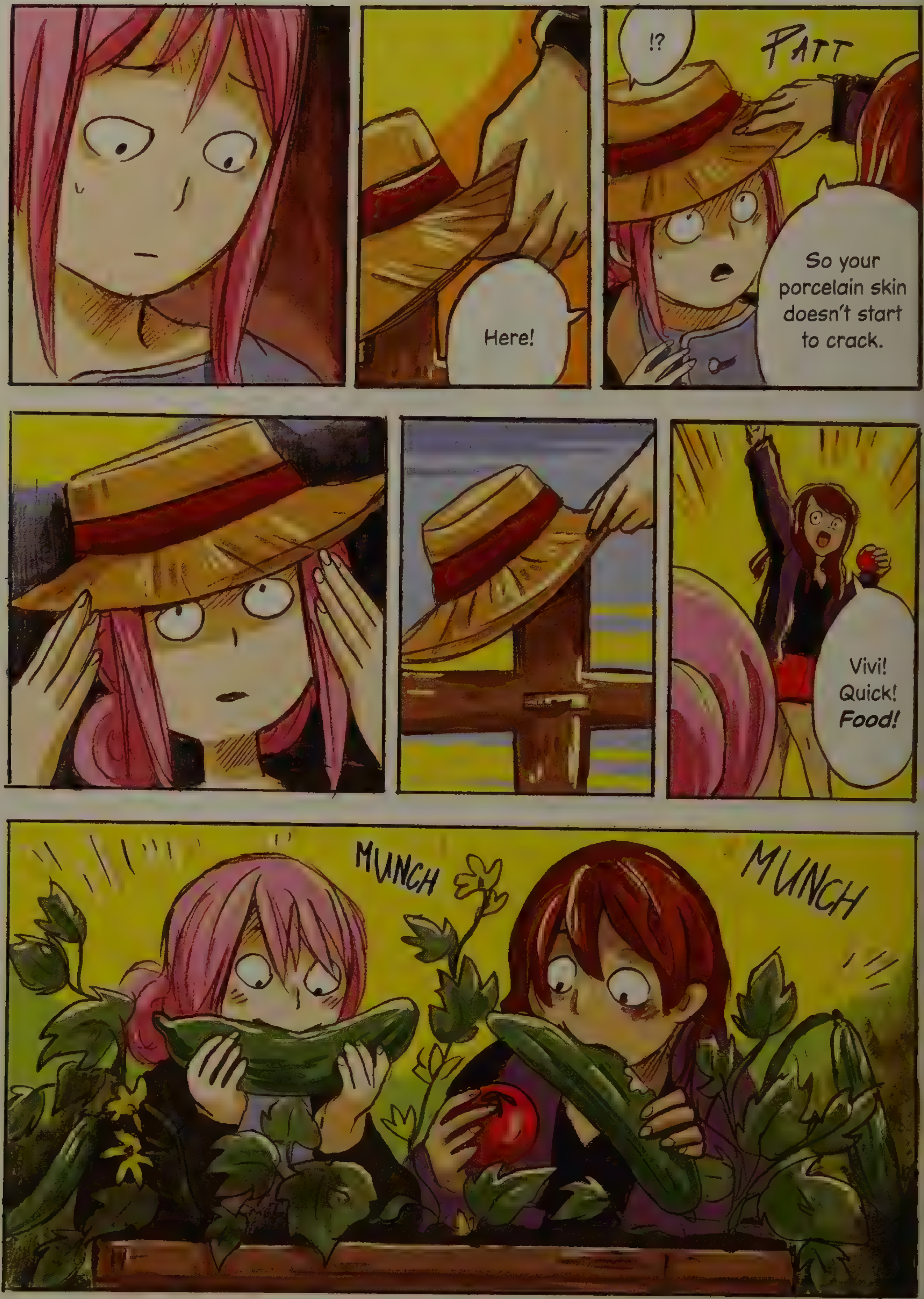

Leave her alone.
What are you afraid of?
You think ***killing a zombie*** makes you a bad person?
Please, let's just go.
Listen, the people we used to be are dead. And we shouldn't grieve for them.
Fine. Come on.

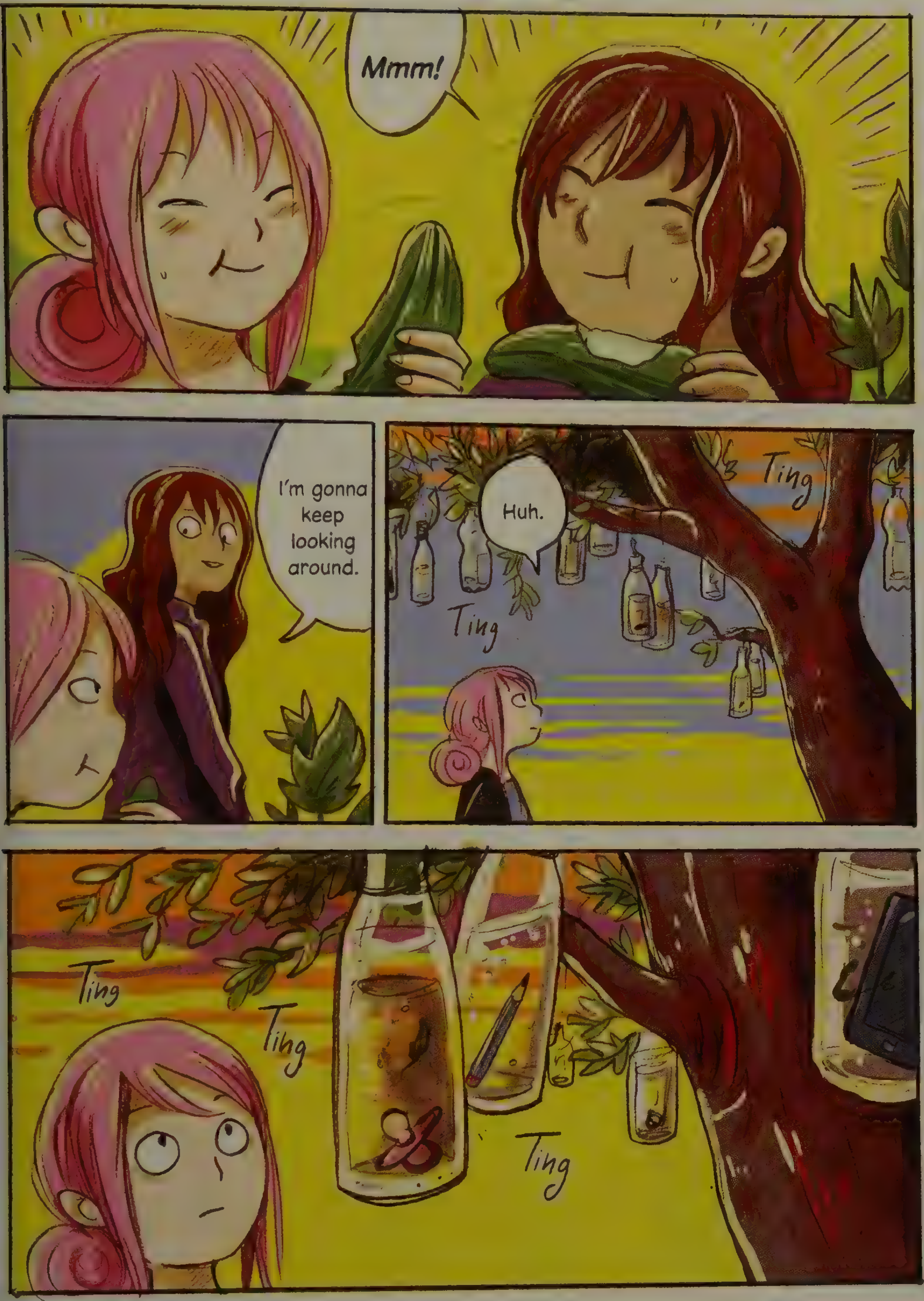

KCHHHH
Come on, Vivi.
Eva, look!

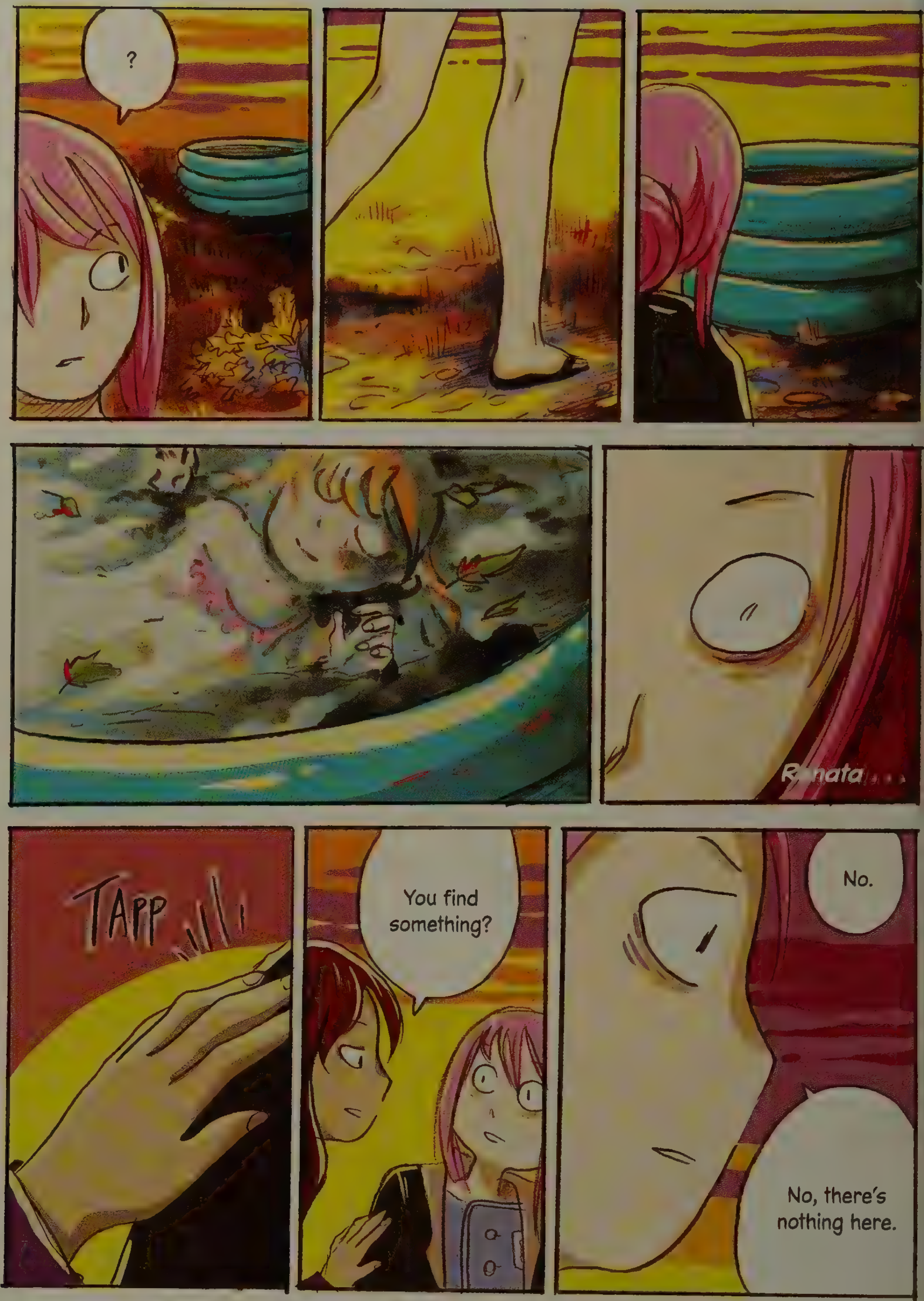

We've gotta check it out.
But we don't know who's inside! Or what.
We have to drink something. And they can't be crazier than you.

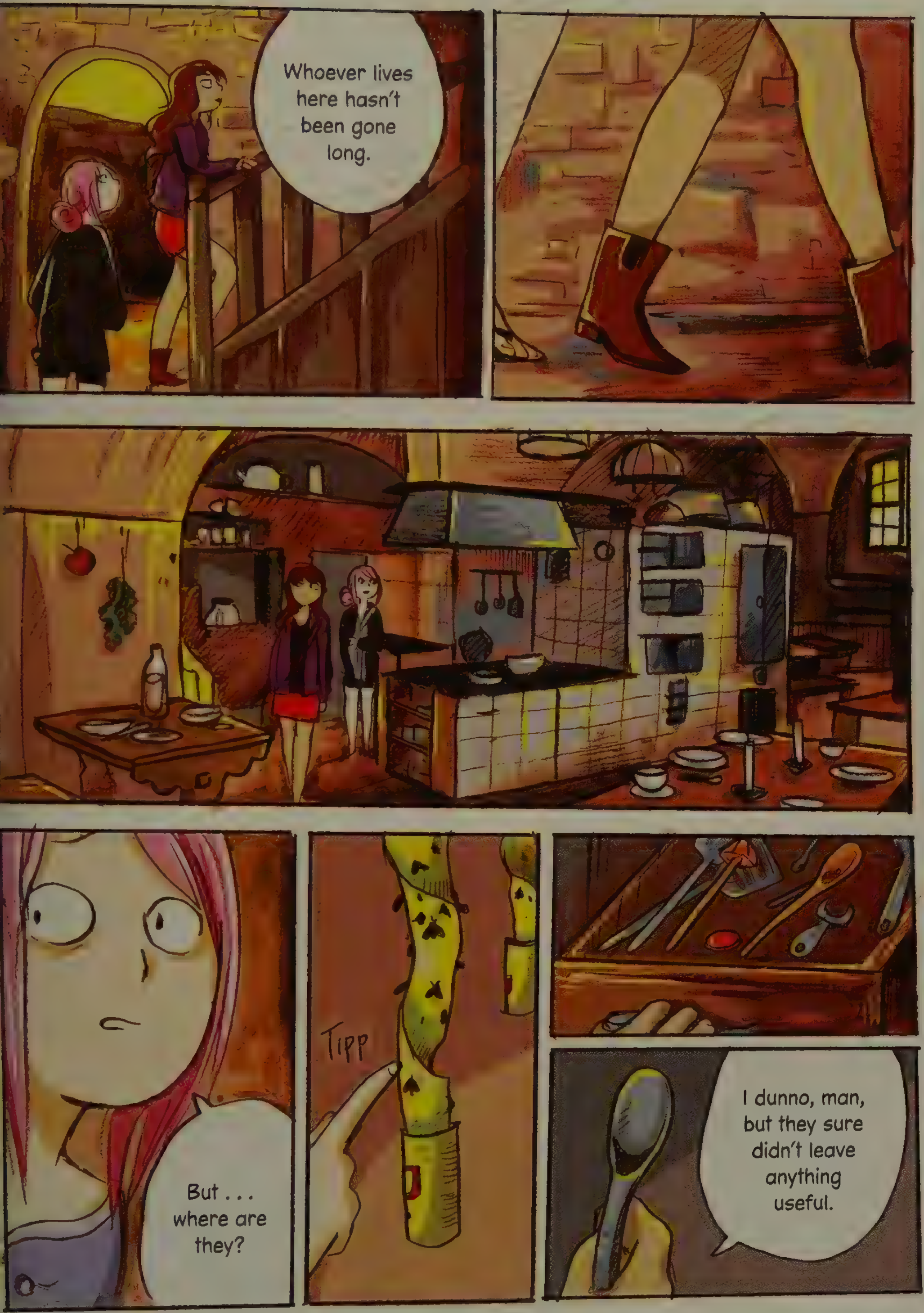

It'll be fine . . .
I'll look out for you.
. . .
Why don't we just take water from the moat and leave?
Standing water on a ninety-seven-degree day? No thanks.

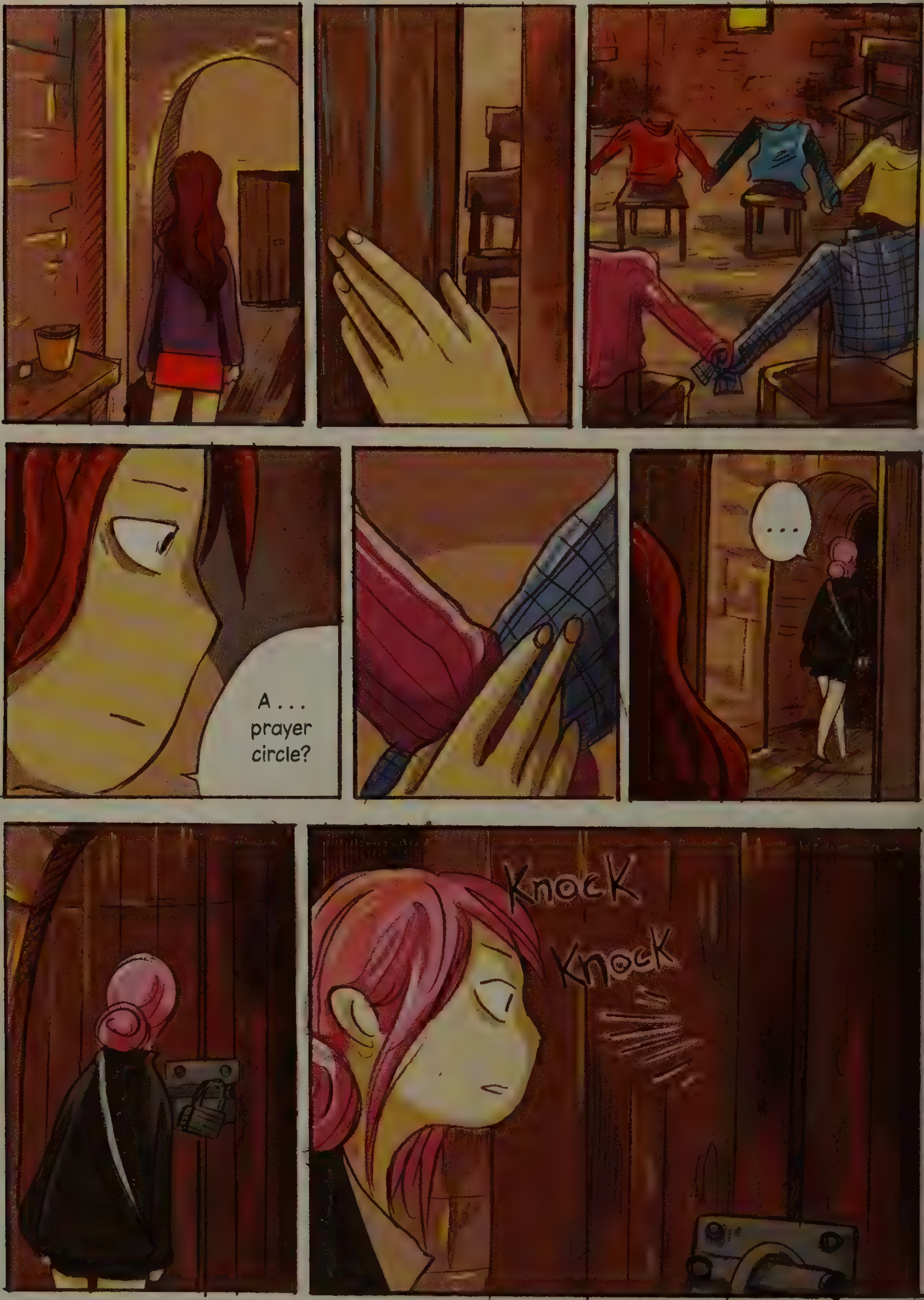

How old is this castle!? It's awesome . . .
Look at these walls. It's like they had zombie problems a thousand years ago.

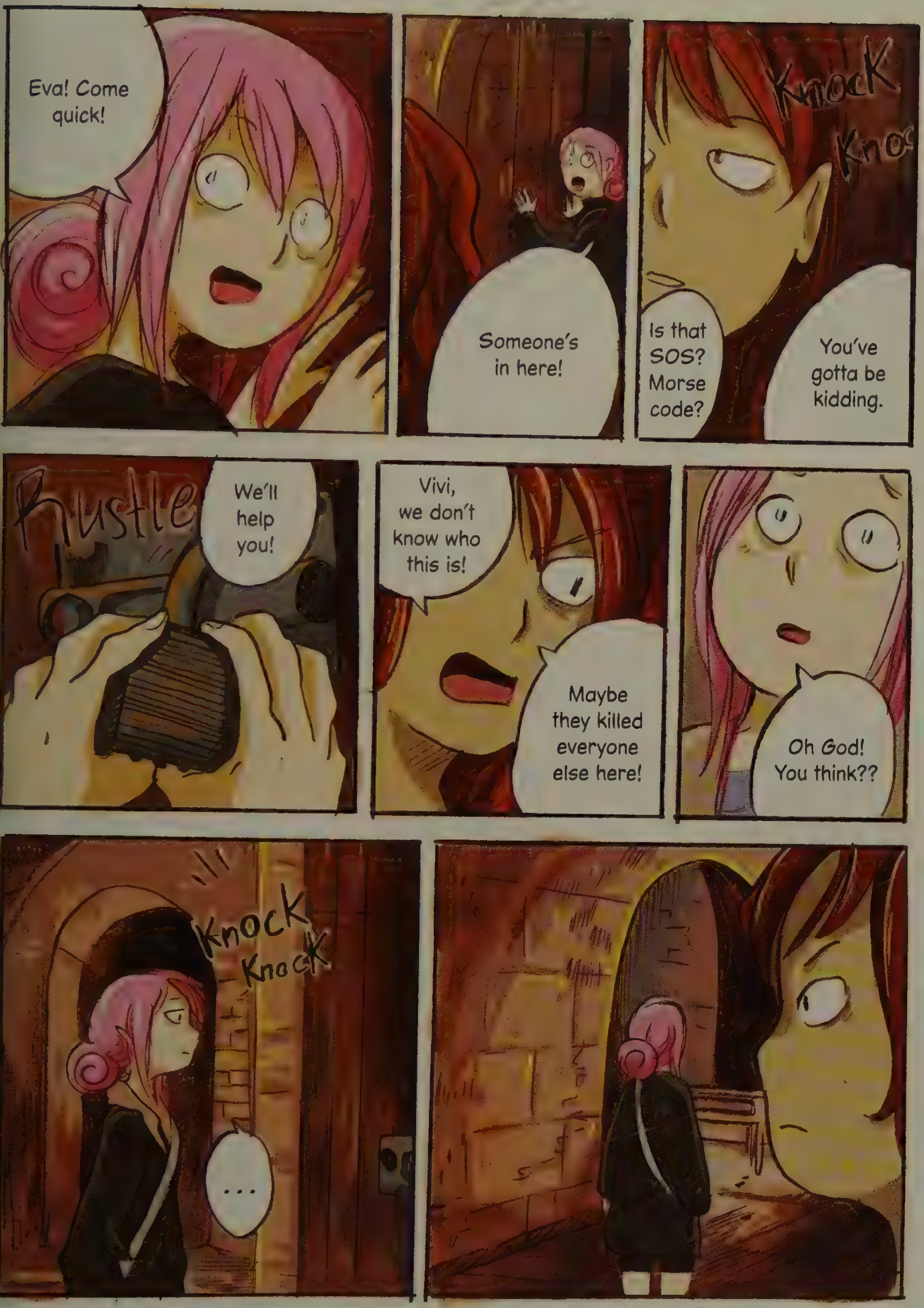

Here!
!?
PATT
So your porcelain skin doesn't start to crack.
Vivi! Quick! *Food!*
MUNCH
MUNCH

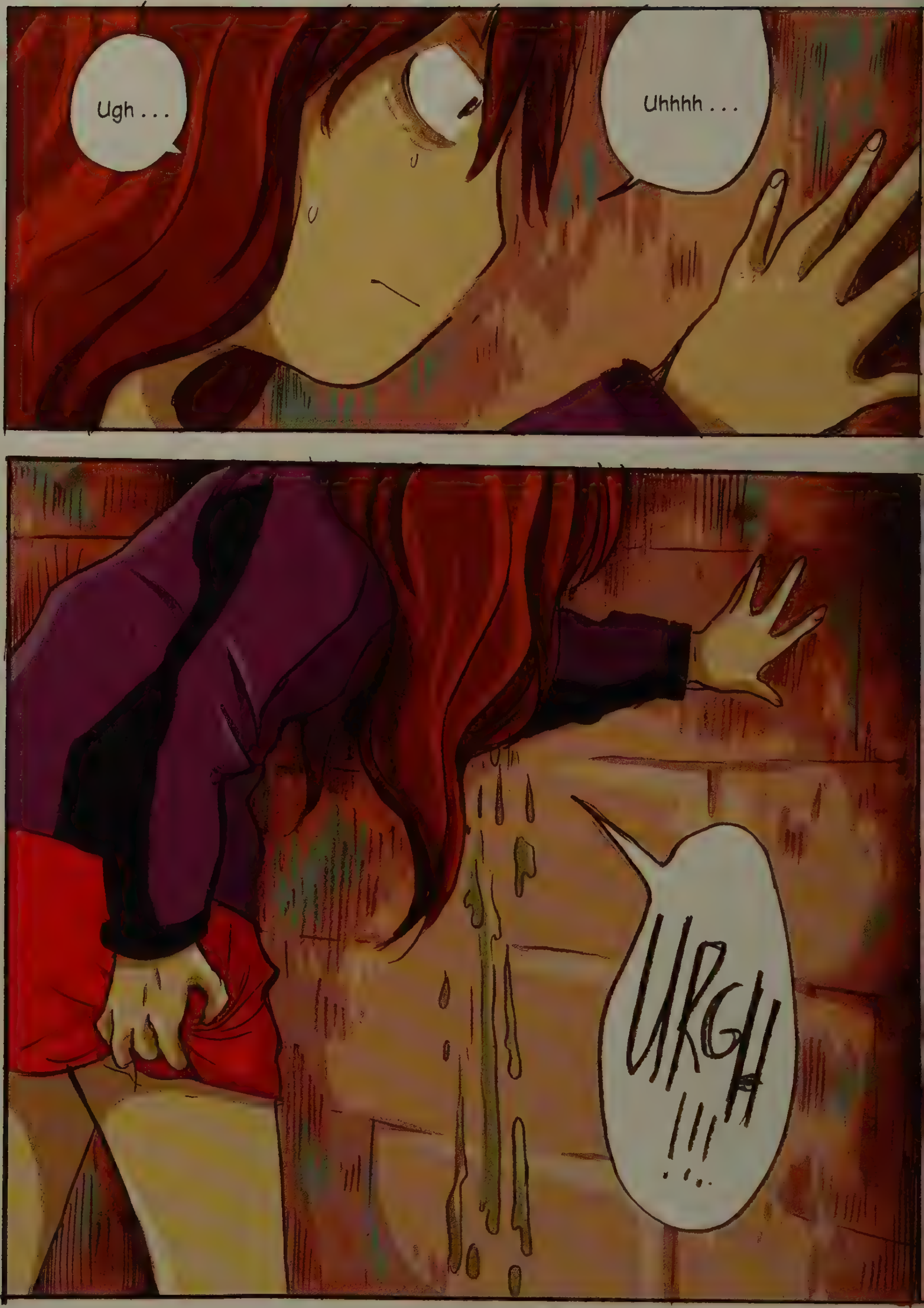

Mmm!
I'm gonna keep looking around.
Huh.
Ting
Ting
Ting
Ting
Ting

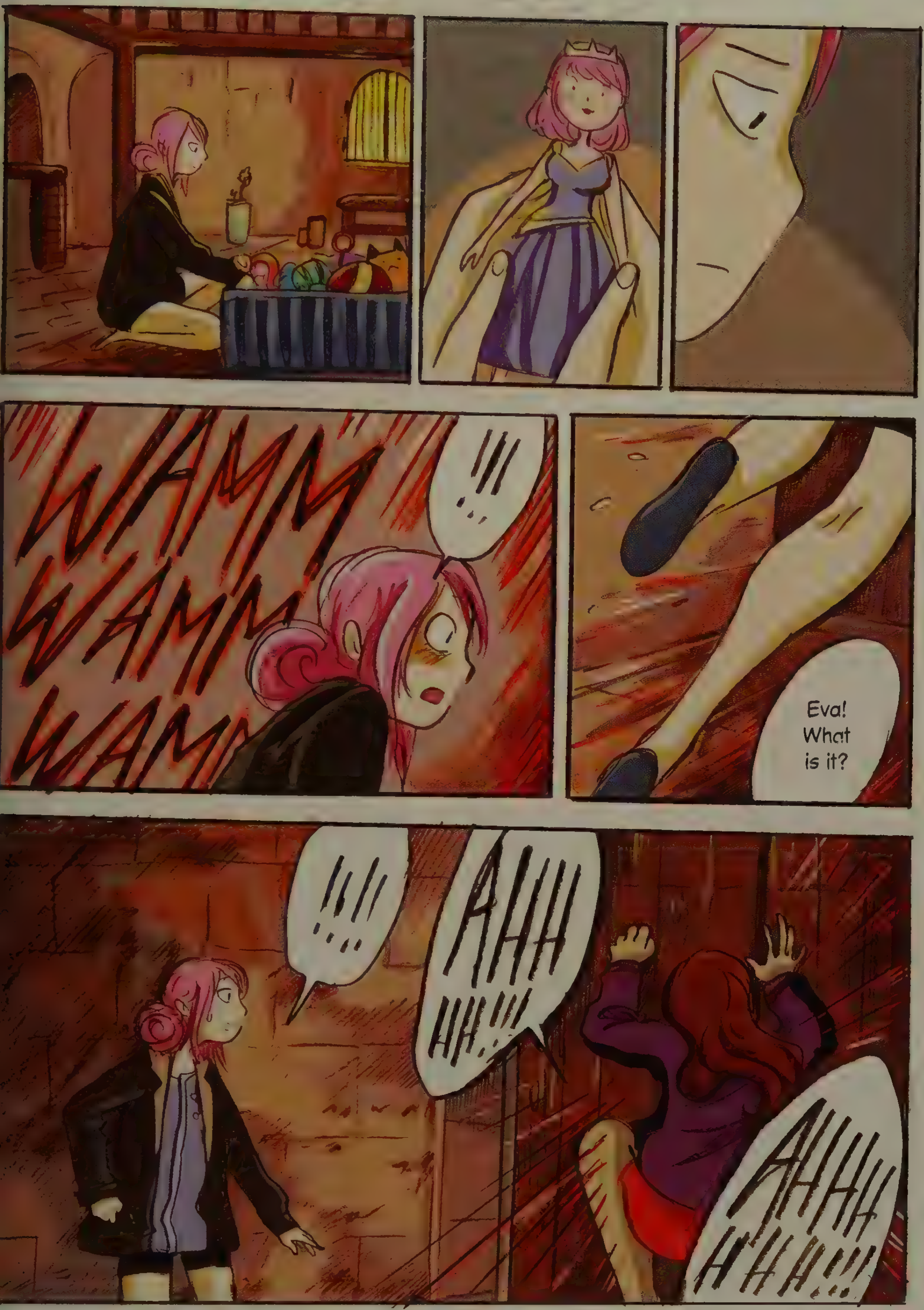

?
Renata. . .
TAPP
You find something?
No.
No, there's nothing here.

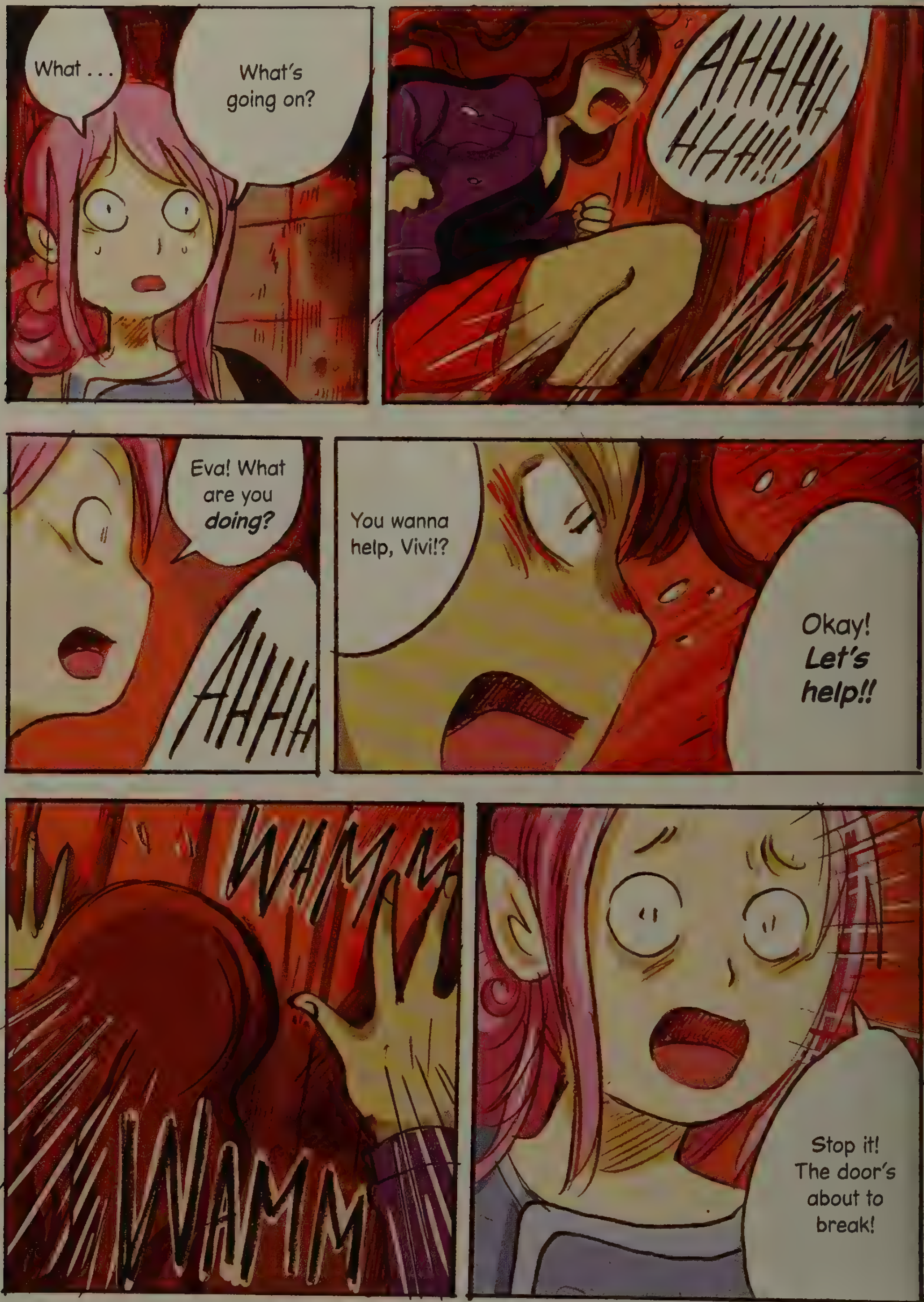

Whoever lives here hasn't been gone long.
But . . . where are they?
Tipp
I dunno, man, but they sure didn't leave anything useful.

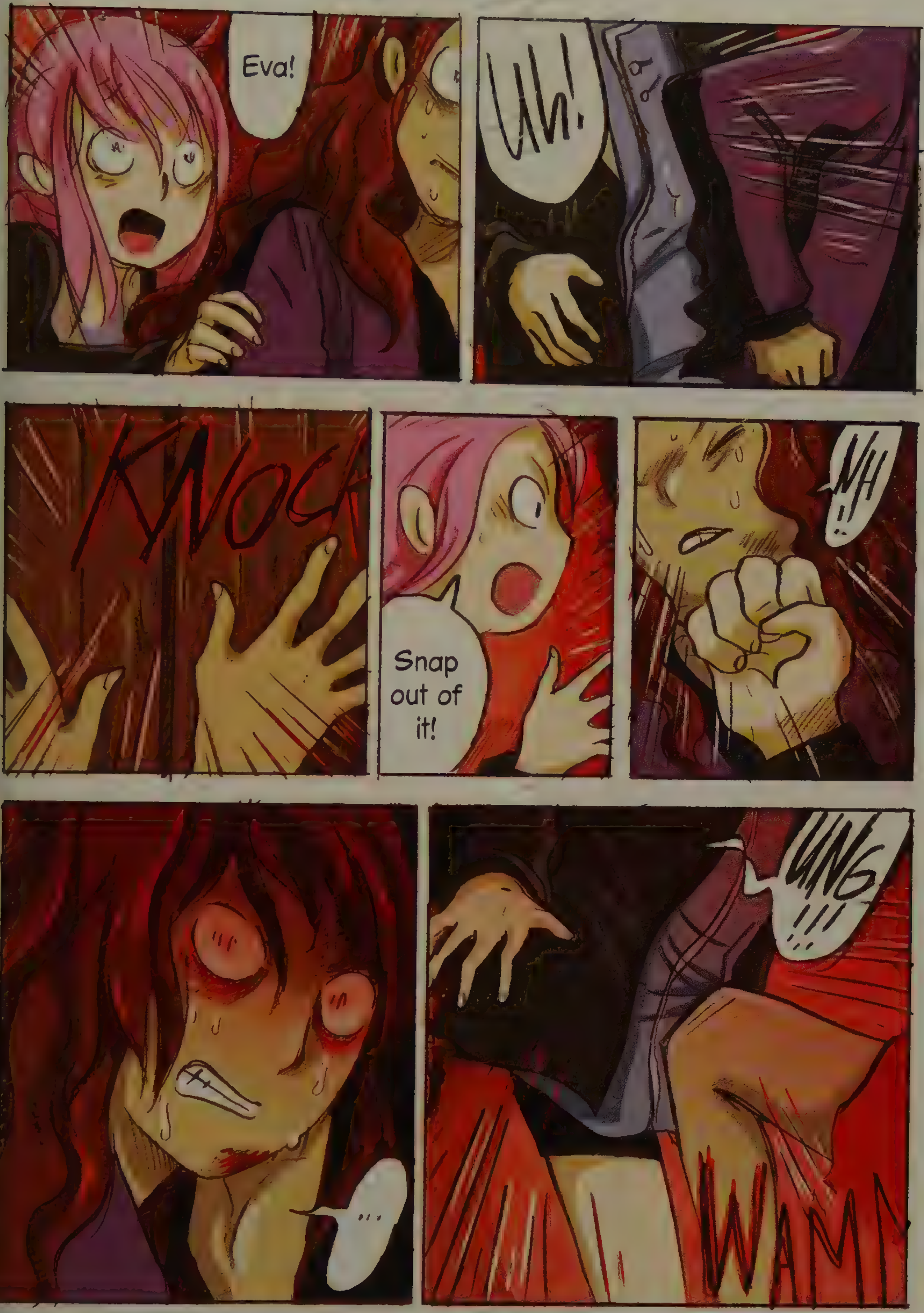

A . . . prayer circle?
. . .
Knock
Knock

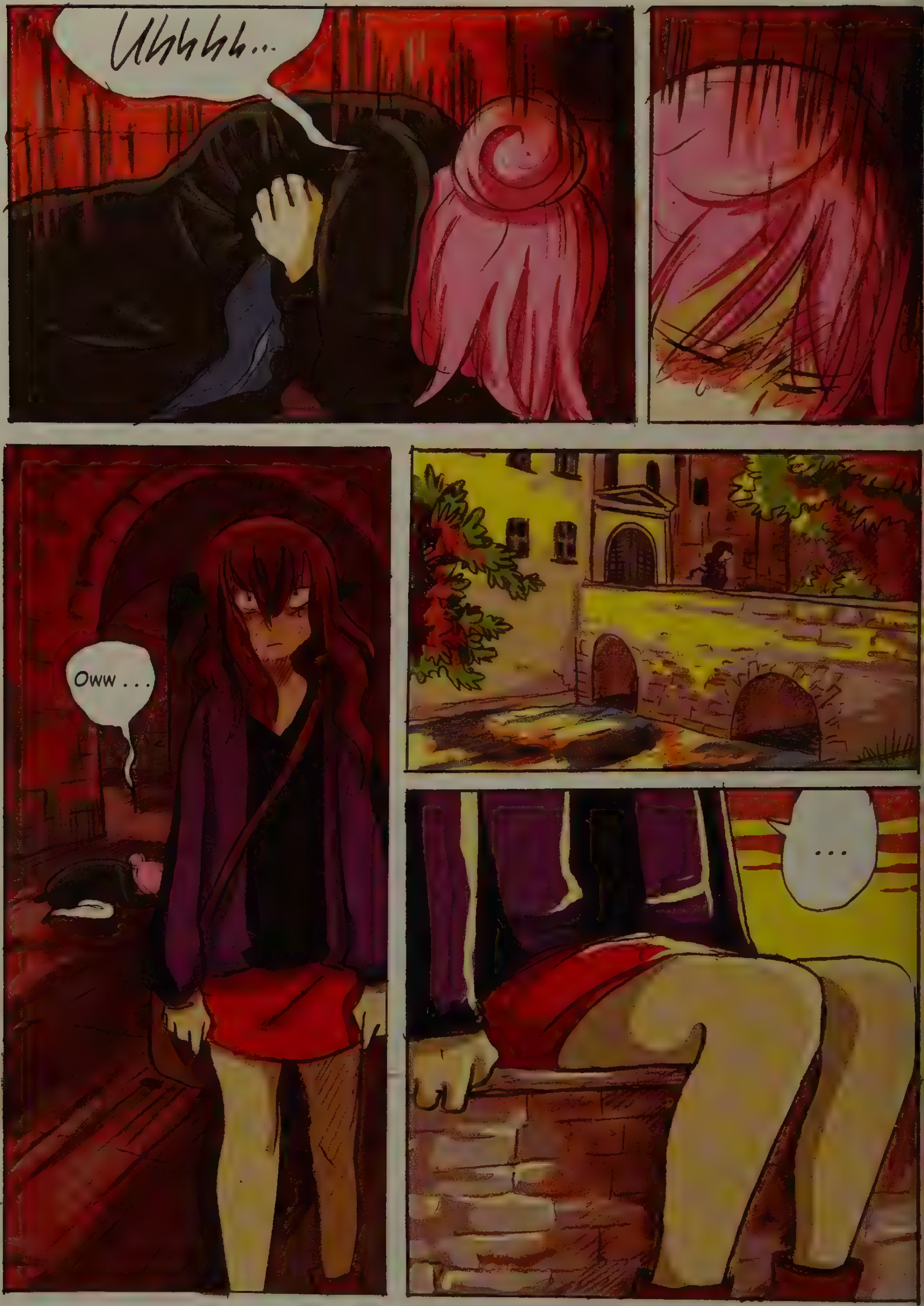

Eva! Come quick!
Someone's in here!
Knock
Knoc
Is that SOS? Morse code?
You've gotta be kidding.
Rustle
We'll help you!
Vivi, we don't know who this is!
Maybe they killed everyone else here!
Oh God! You think??
Knock
Knock
...

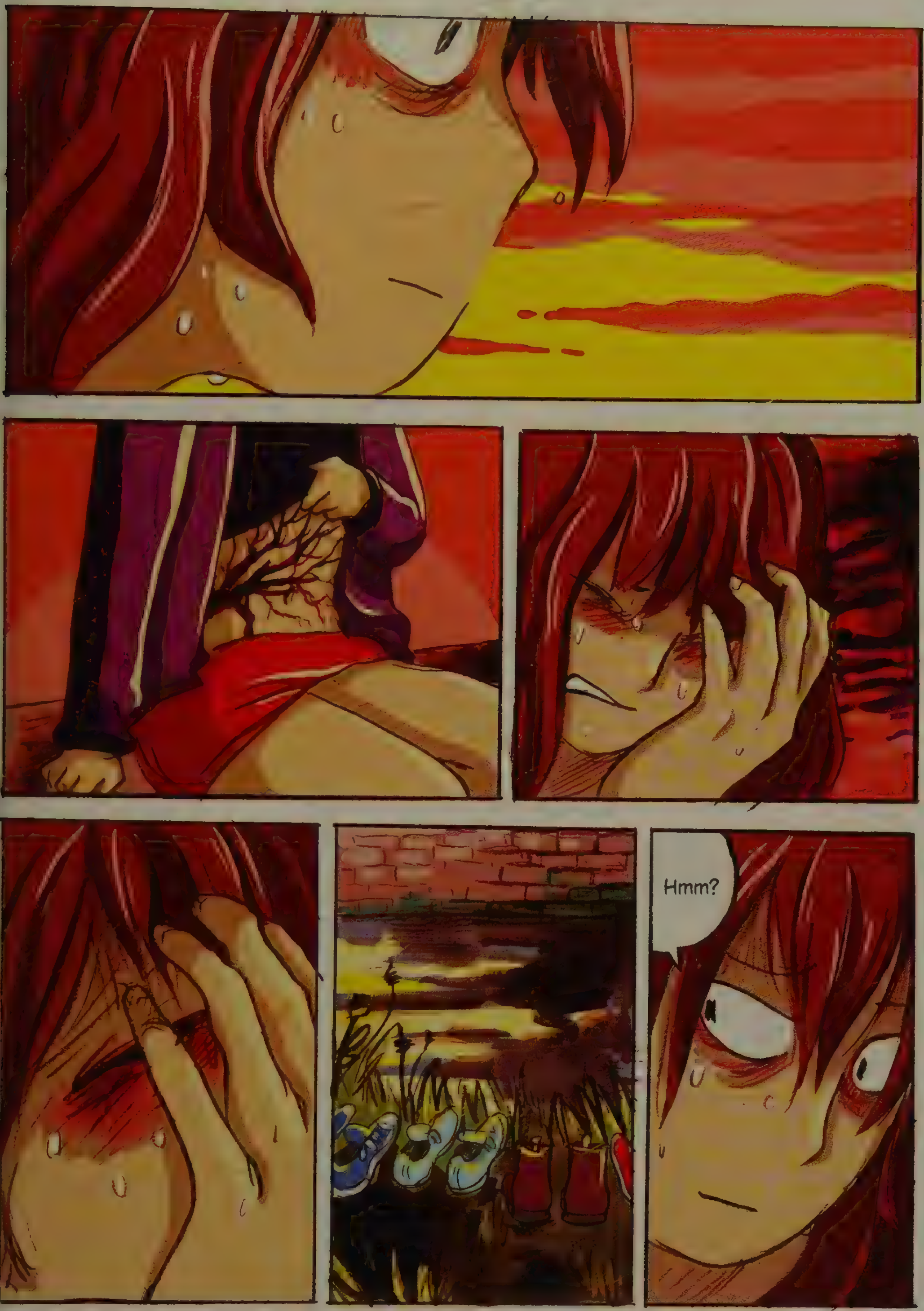

Ugh . . .
Uhhhh . . .
URGH!!!...

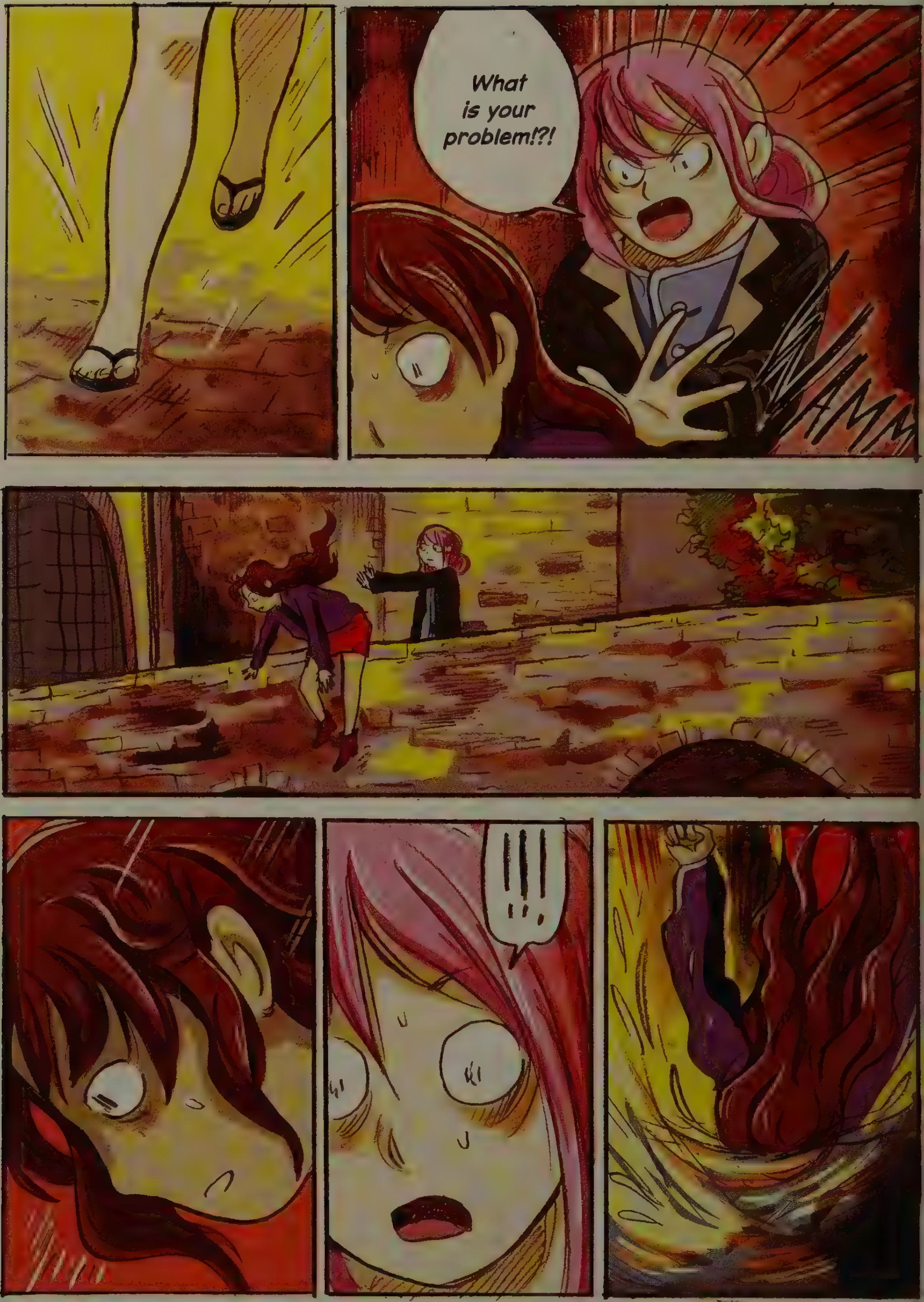

WAMM
WAMM
WAMM
!!!...
Eva! What is it?
!!!...
AHHHH!!!
AHHHHHHH!!!

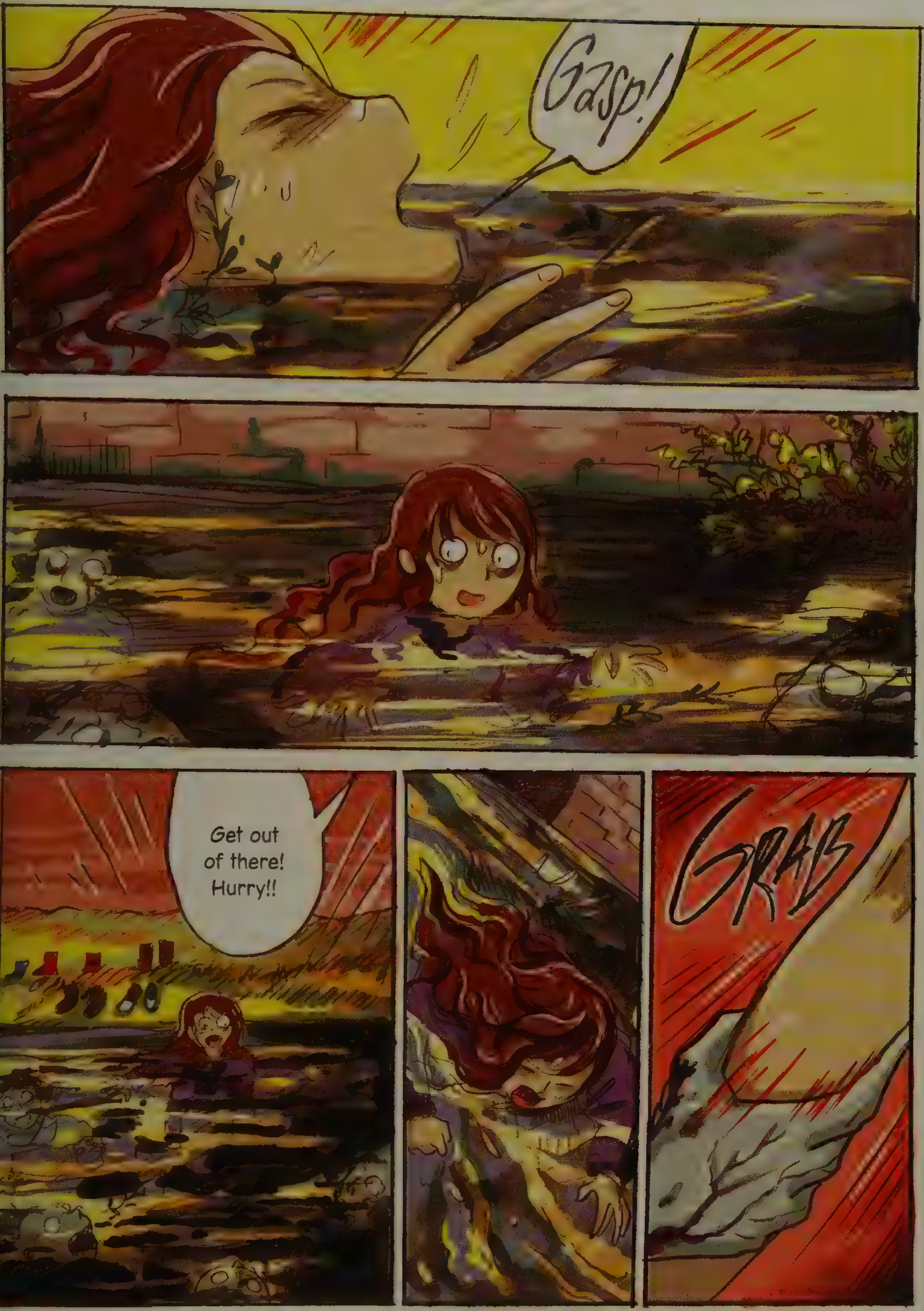

What . . .
What's going on?
AHHHHHHHH!!!
WAMM
Eva! What are you *doing?*
AHHHH
You wanna help, Vivi!?
Okay! ***Let's help!!***
WAMM
WAMM
Stop it! The door's about to break!

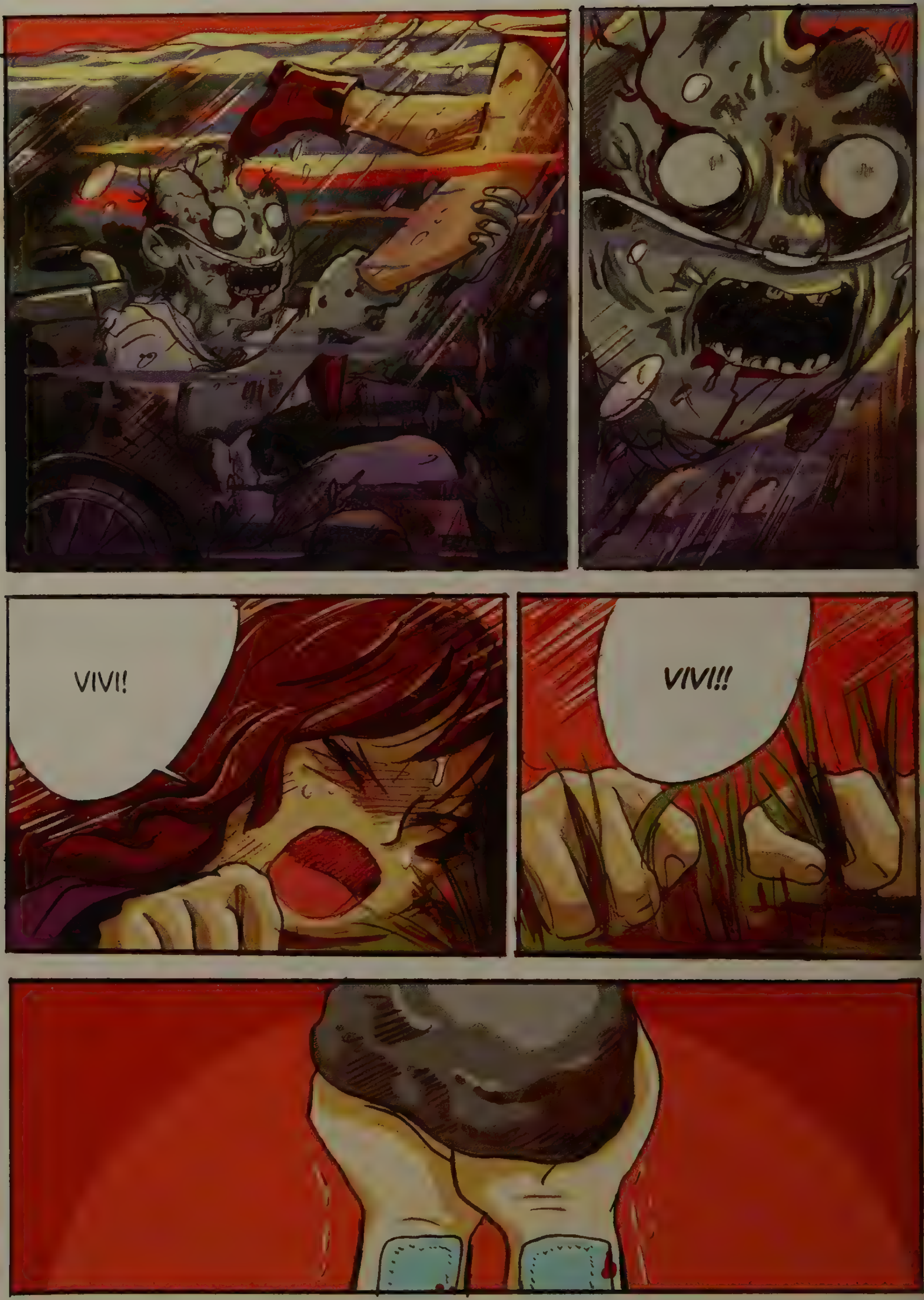

Eva!
Uh!
KNOCK
Snap out of it!
NH!!
...
UNG!!!
WAM

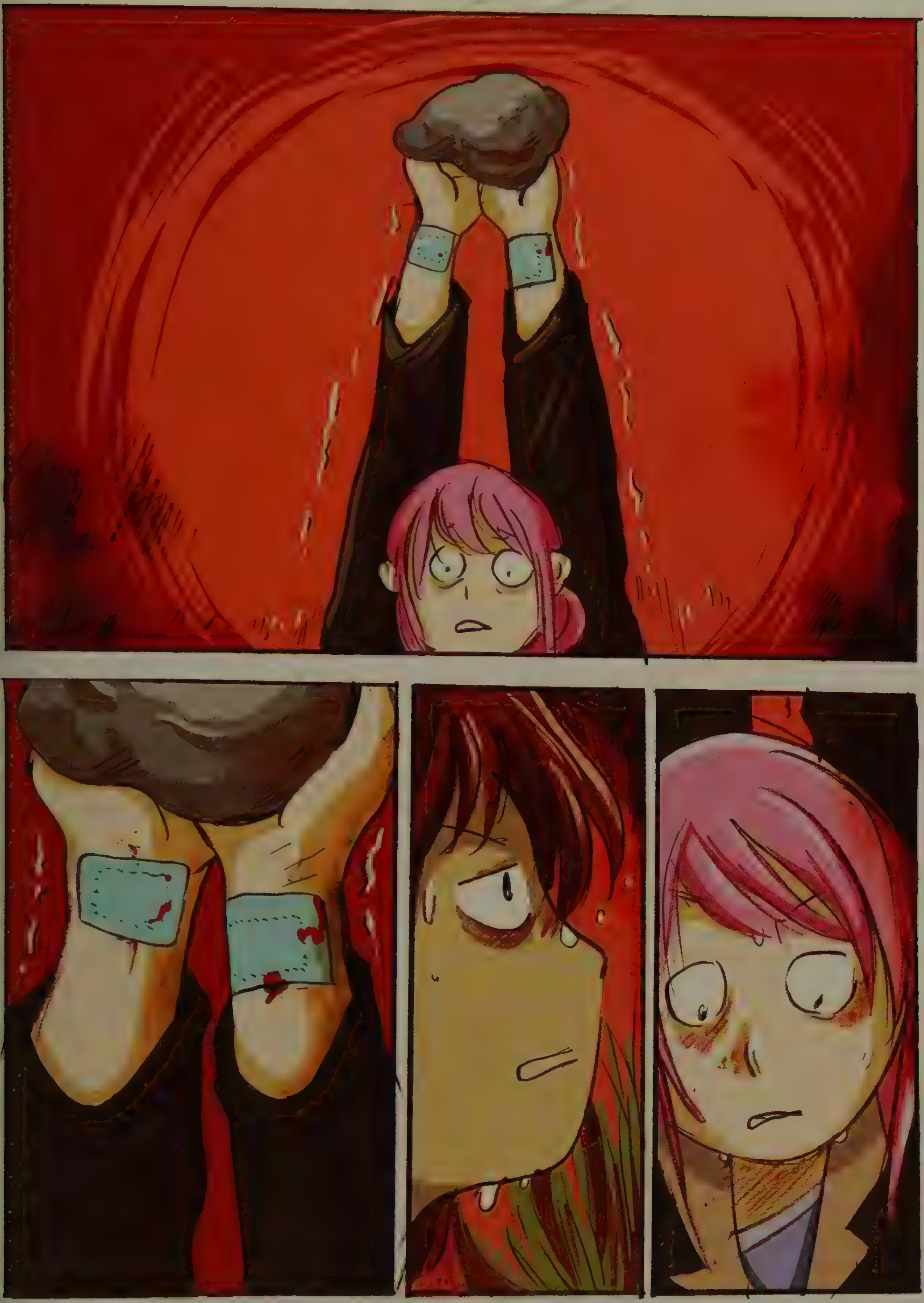

Uhhhh...
Oww . . .
. . .

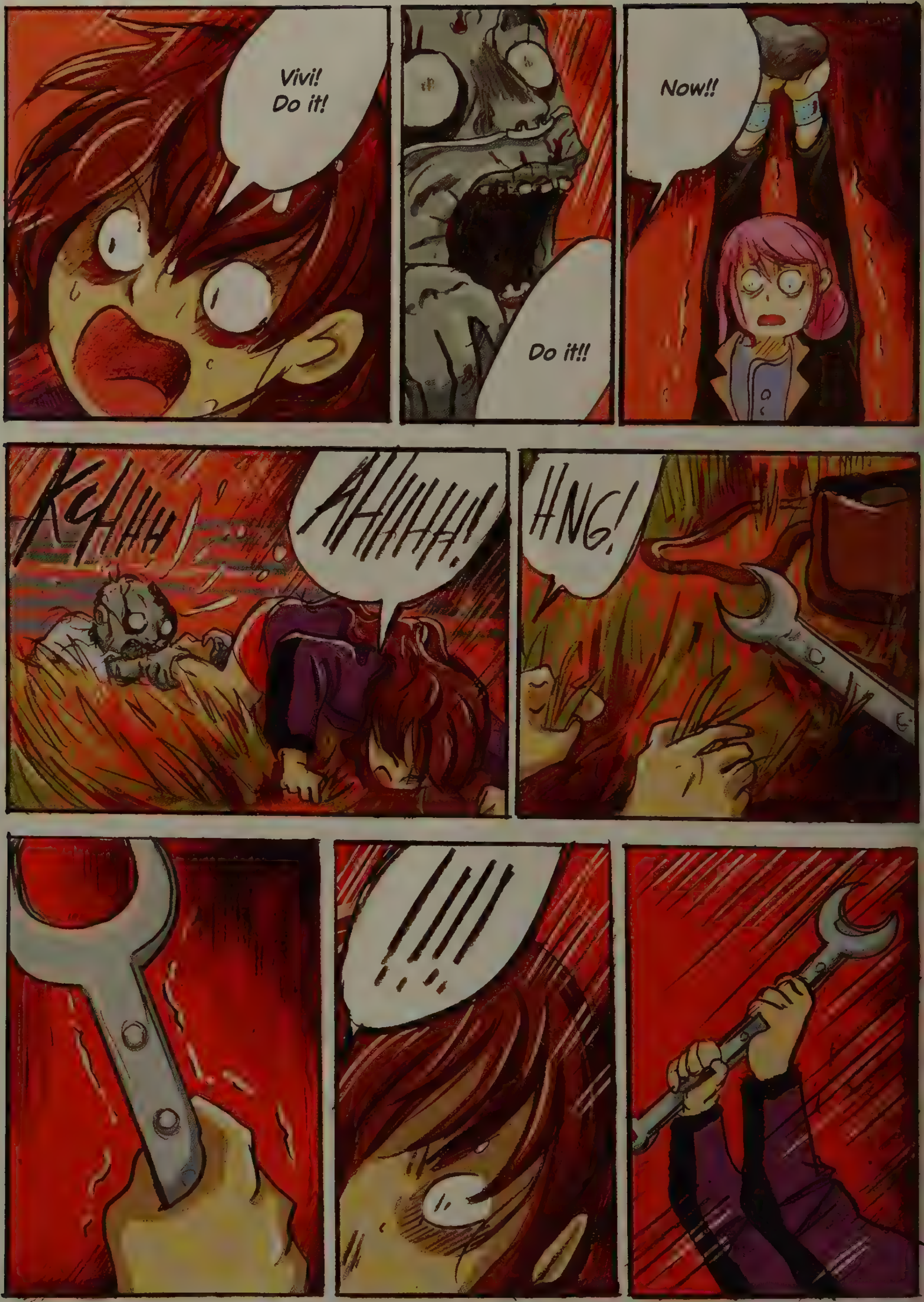

Hmm?

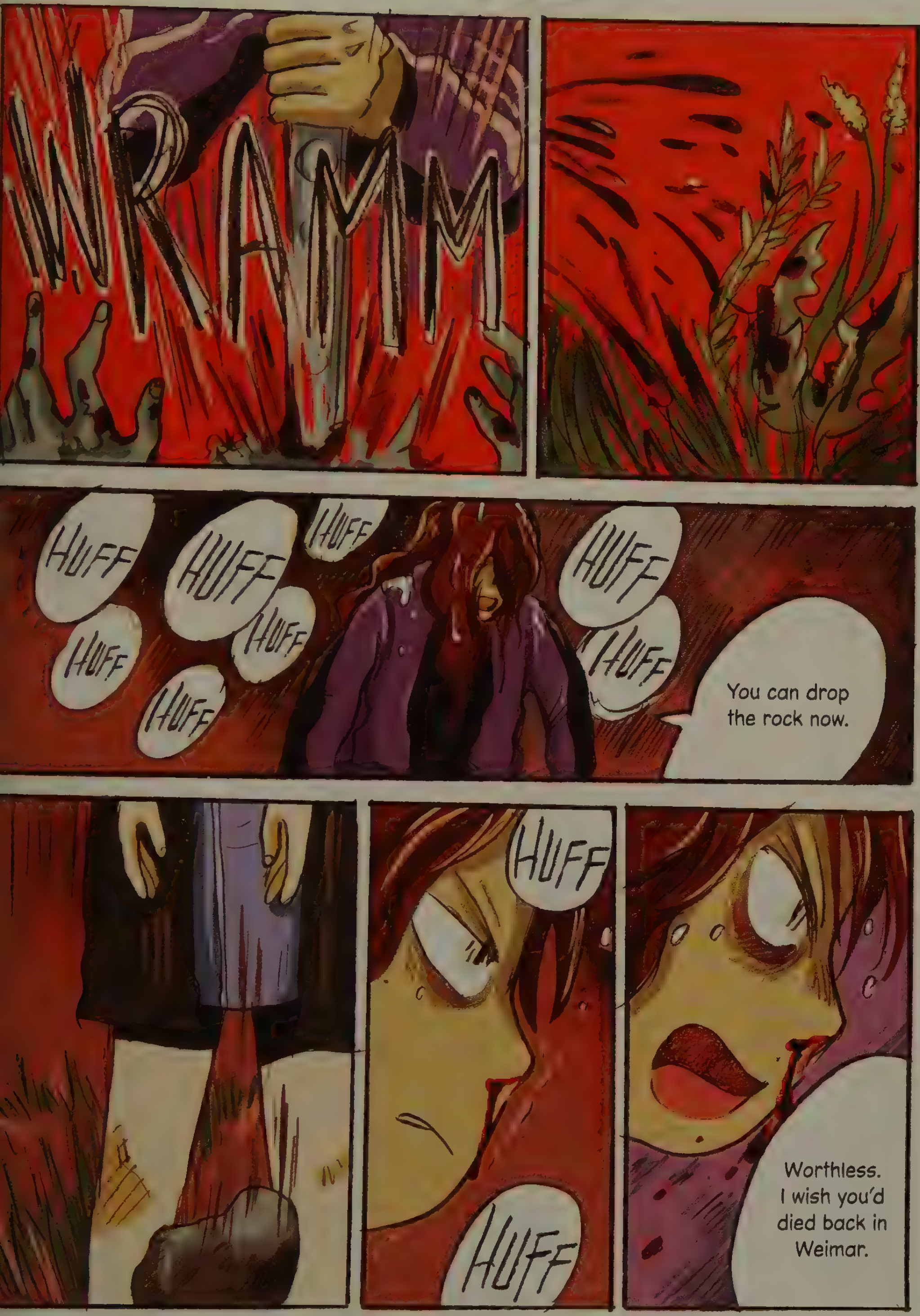

What is your problem!?!
WHAMM
!!

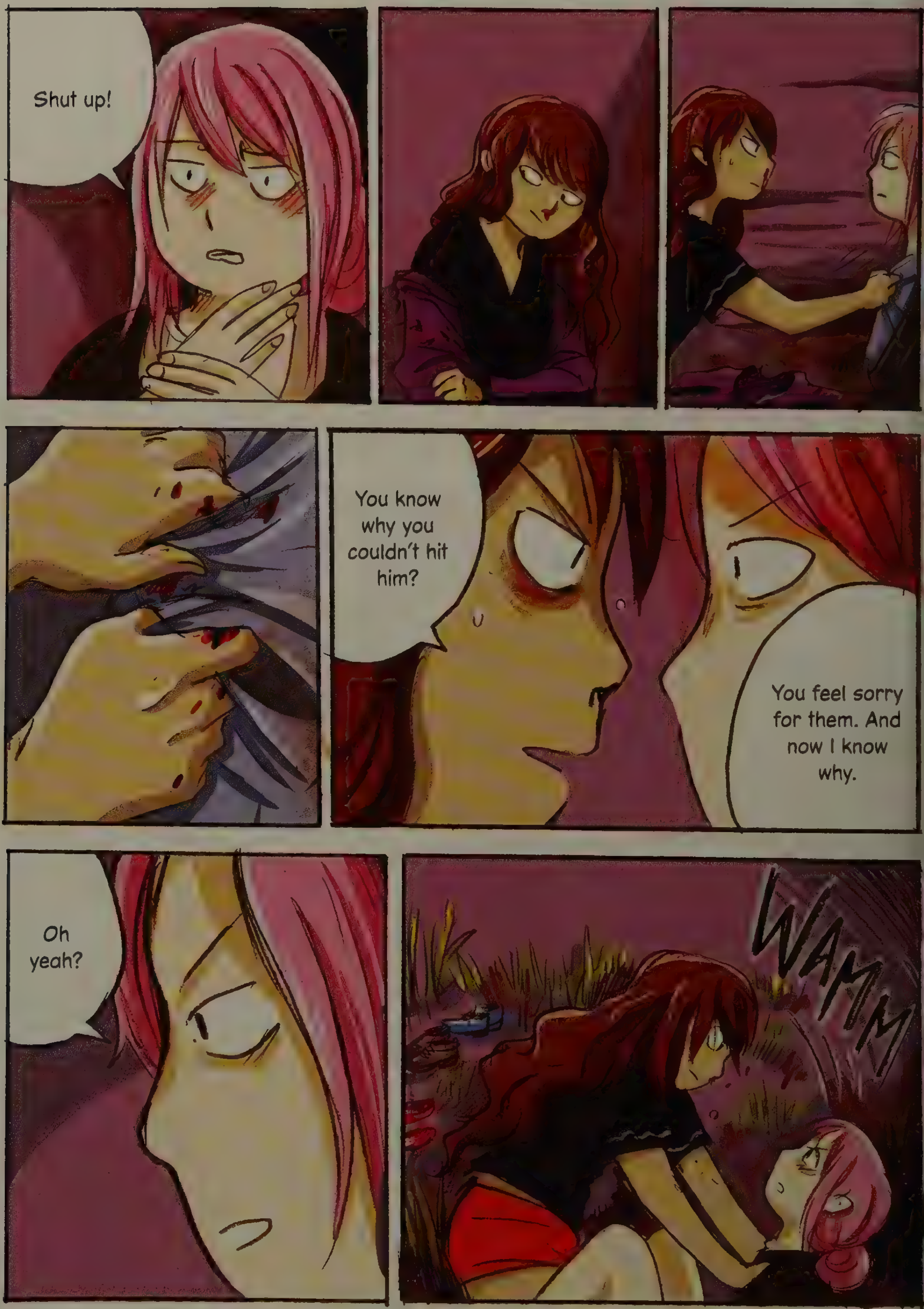

Gasp!
Get out of there! Hurry!!
GRAB

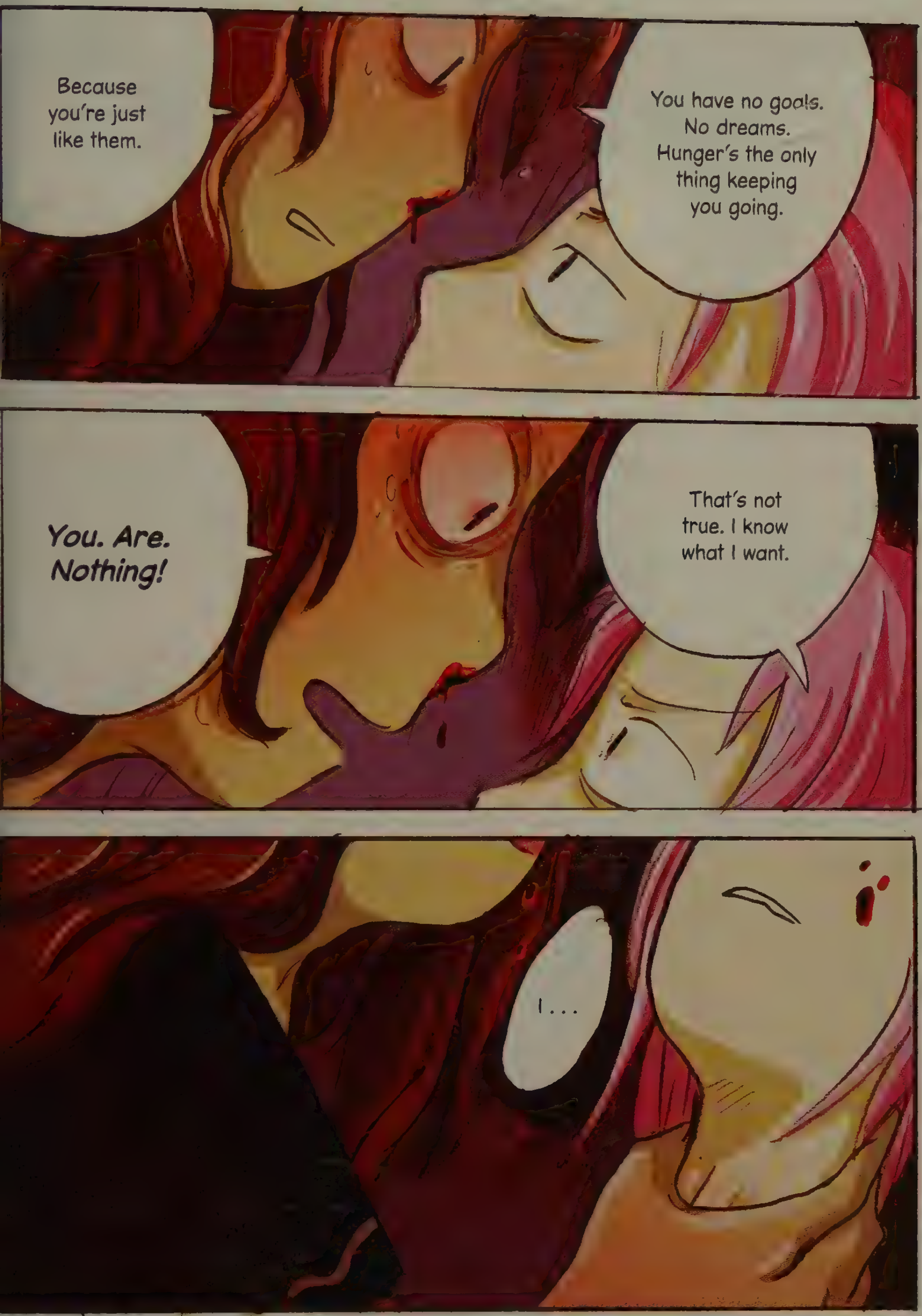

VIVI!
VIVI!!

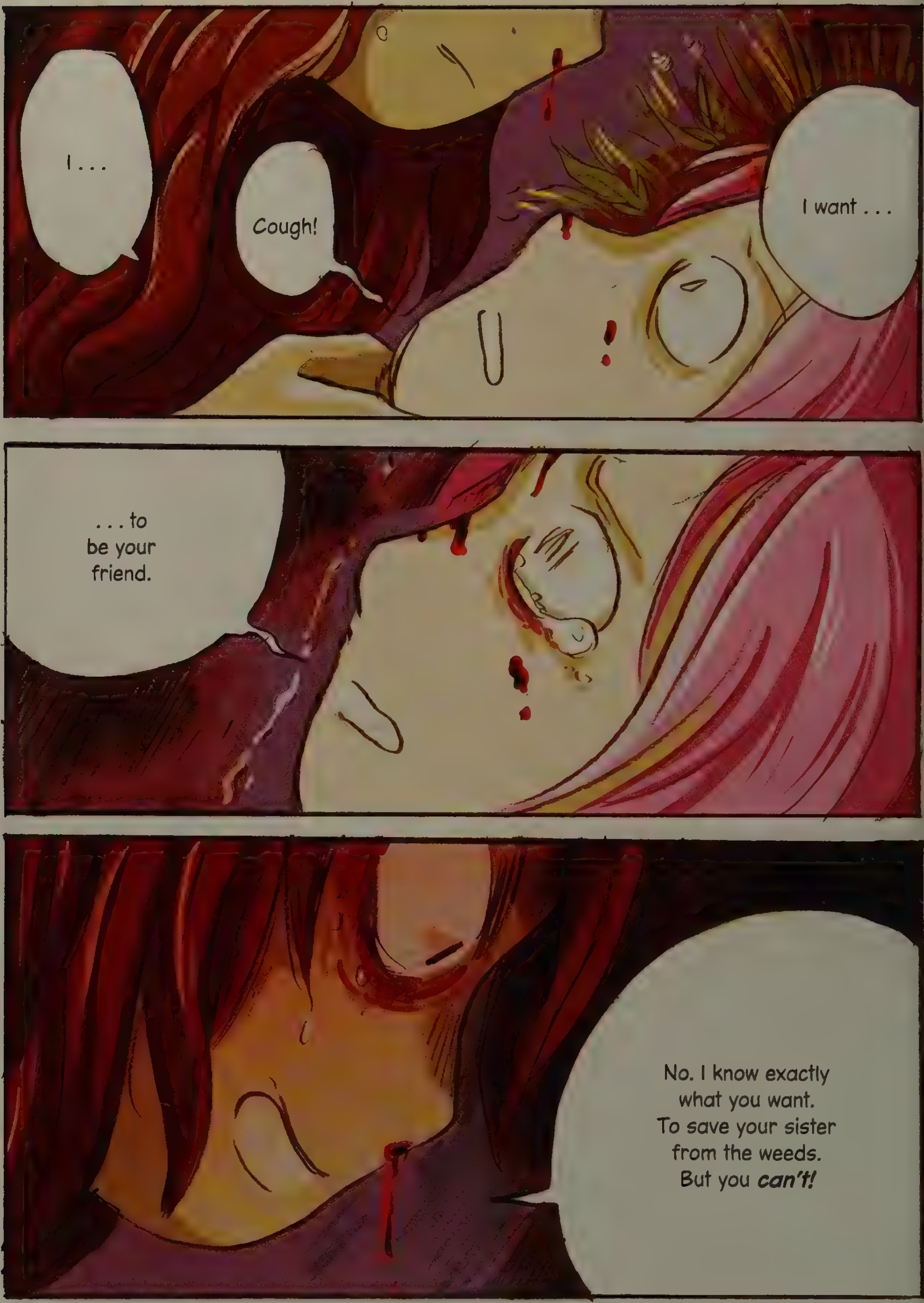


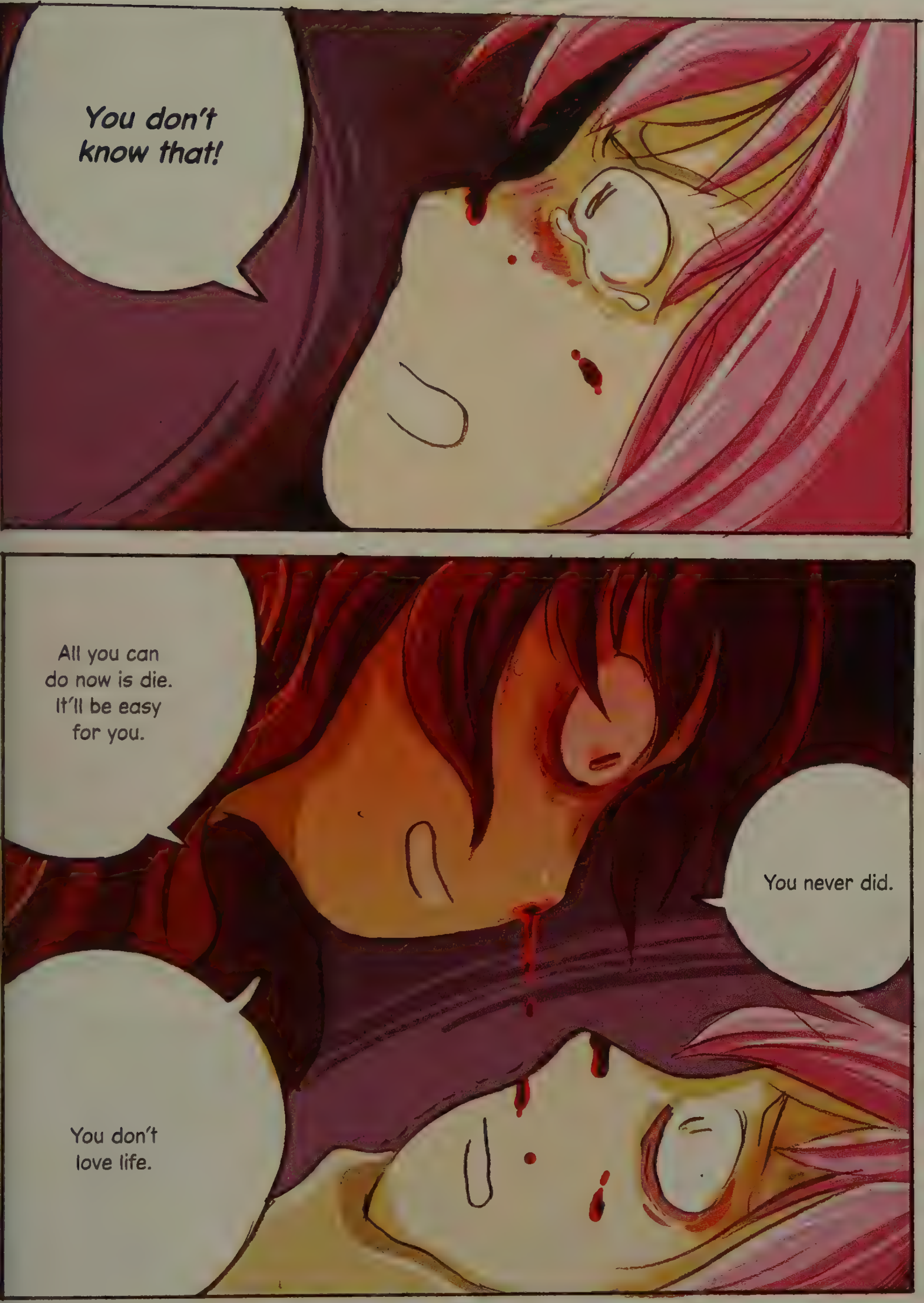

Vivi!
Do it!
Do it!!
Now!!
KYAHHH
AHHHHH!
HNG!
!!!!

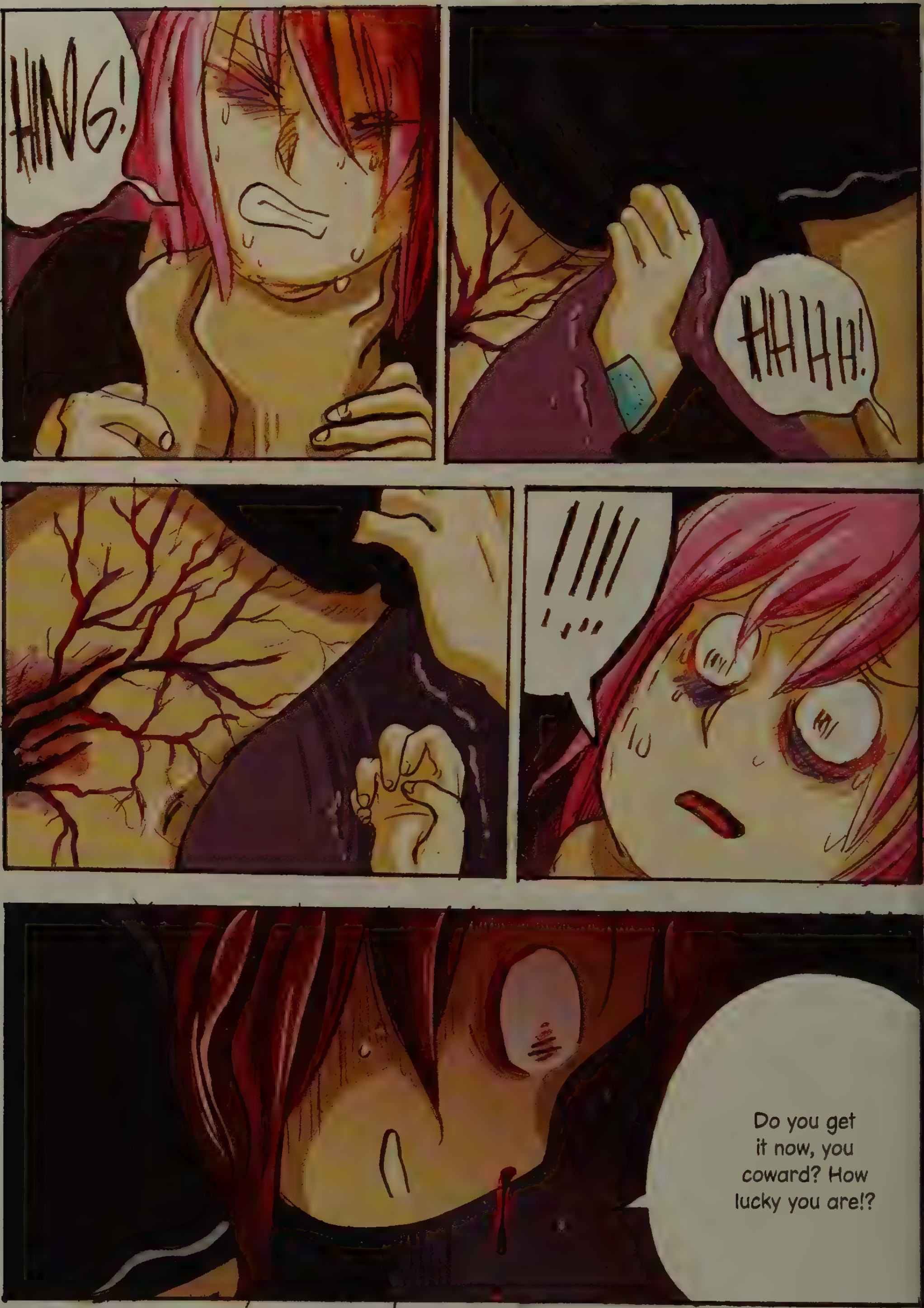

WRAMM
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
You can drop the rock now.
HUFF
HUFF
Worthless. I wish you'd died back in Weimar.

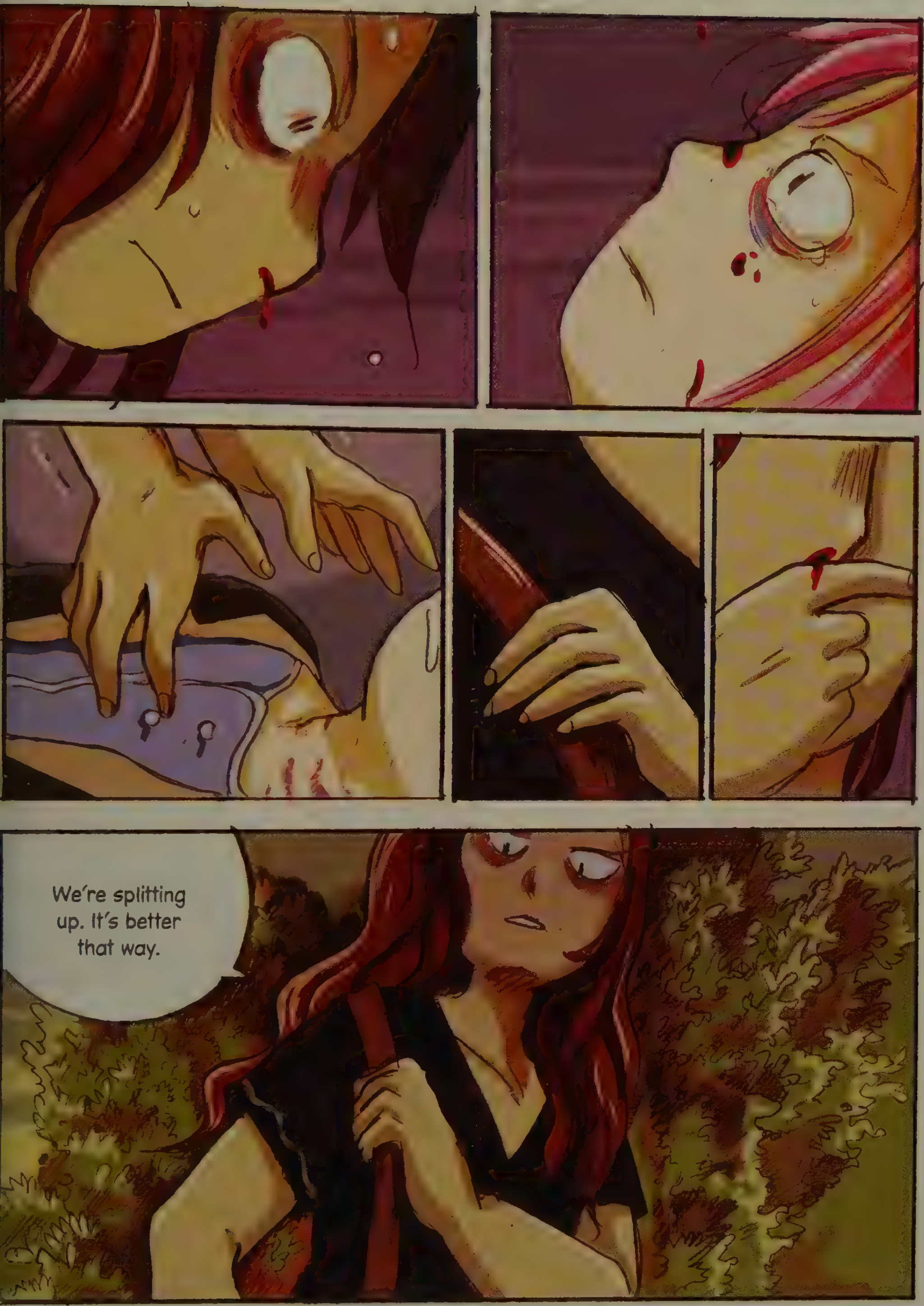

Shut up!
You know why you couldn't hit him?
You feel sorry for them. And now I know why.
Oh yeah?
WAMM

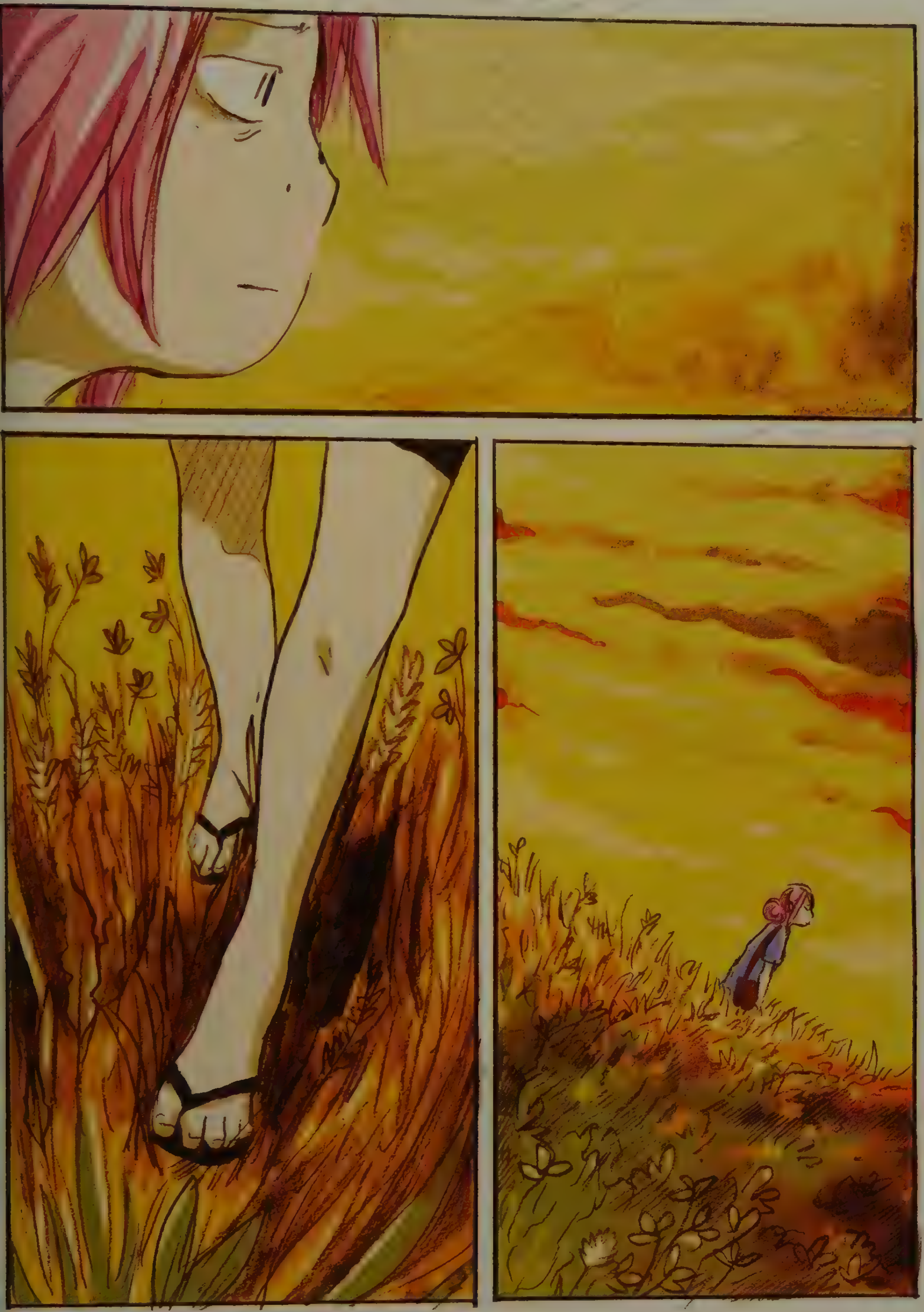

Because you're just like them.
You have no goals. No dreams. Hunger's the only thing keeping you going.
You. Are. Nothing!
That's not true. I know what I want.
I...

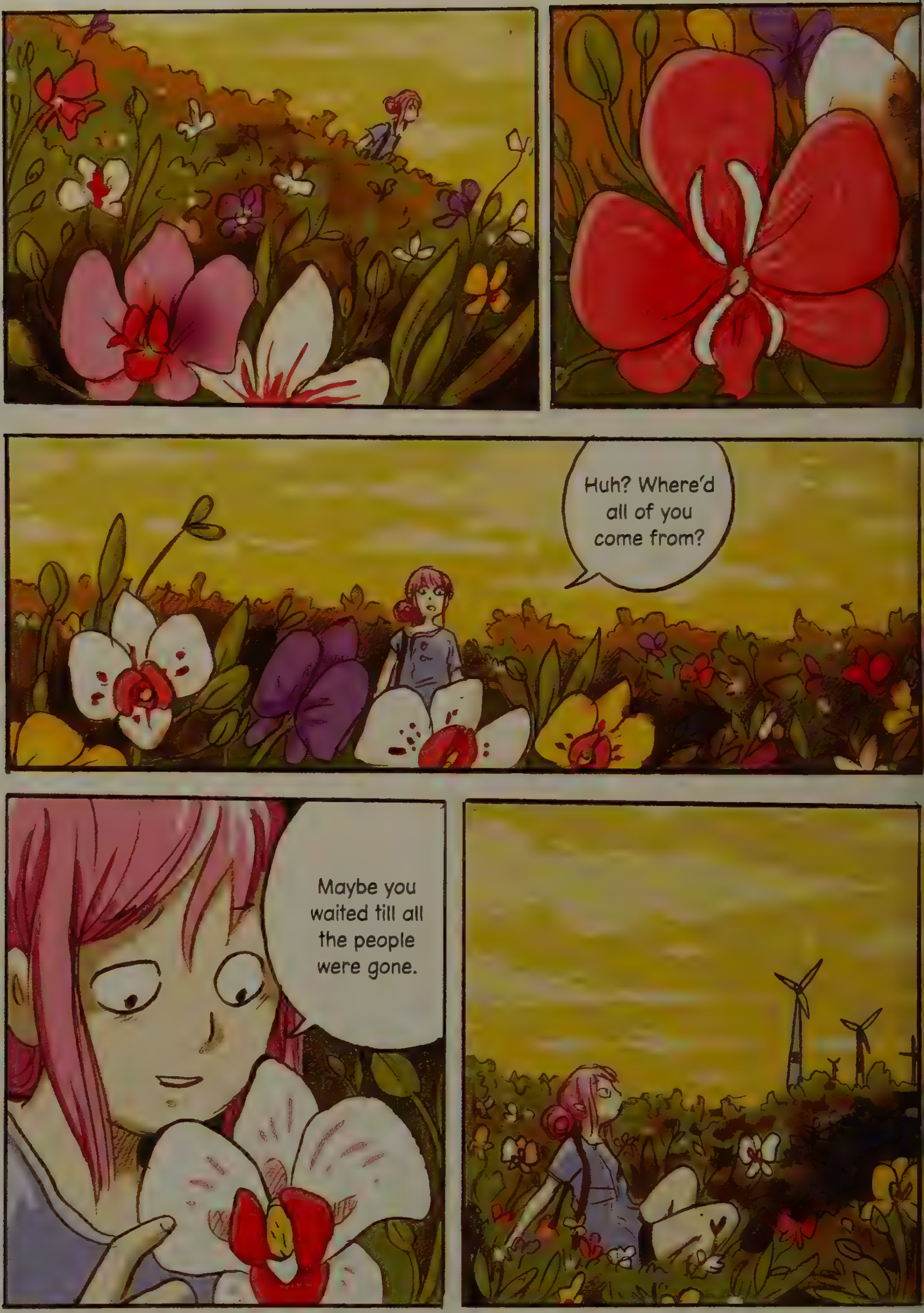

I . . .
Cough!
I want . . .
. . . to be your friend.
No. I know exactly what you want. To save your sister from the weeds. But you ***can't!***

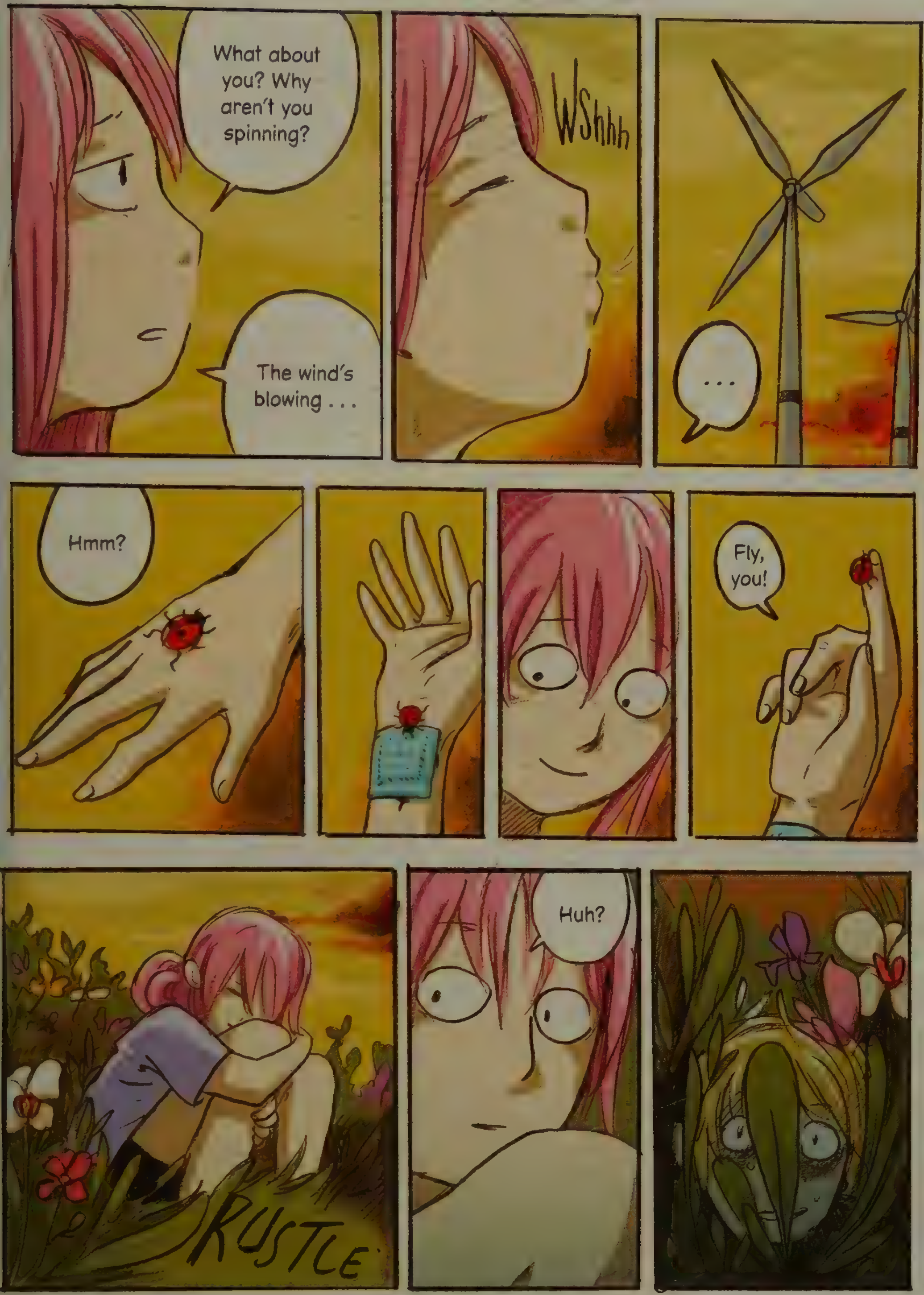

You don't know that!
All you can do now is die. It'll be easy for you.
You don't love life.
You never did.

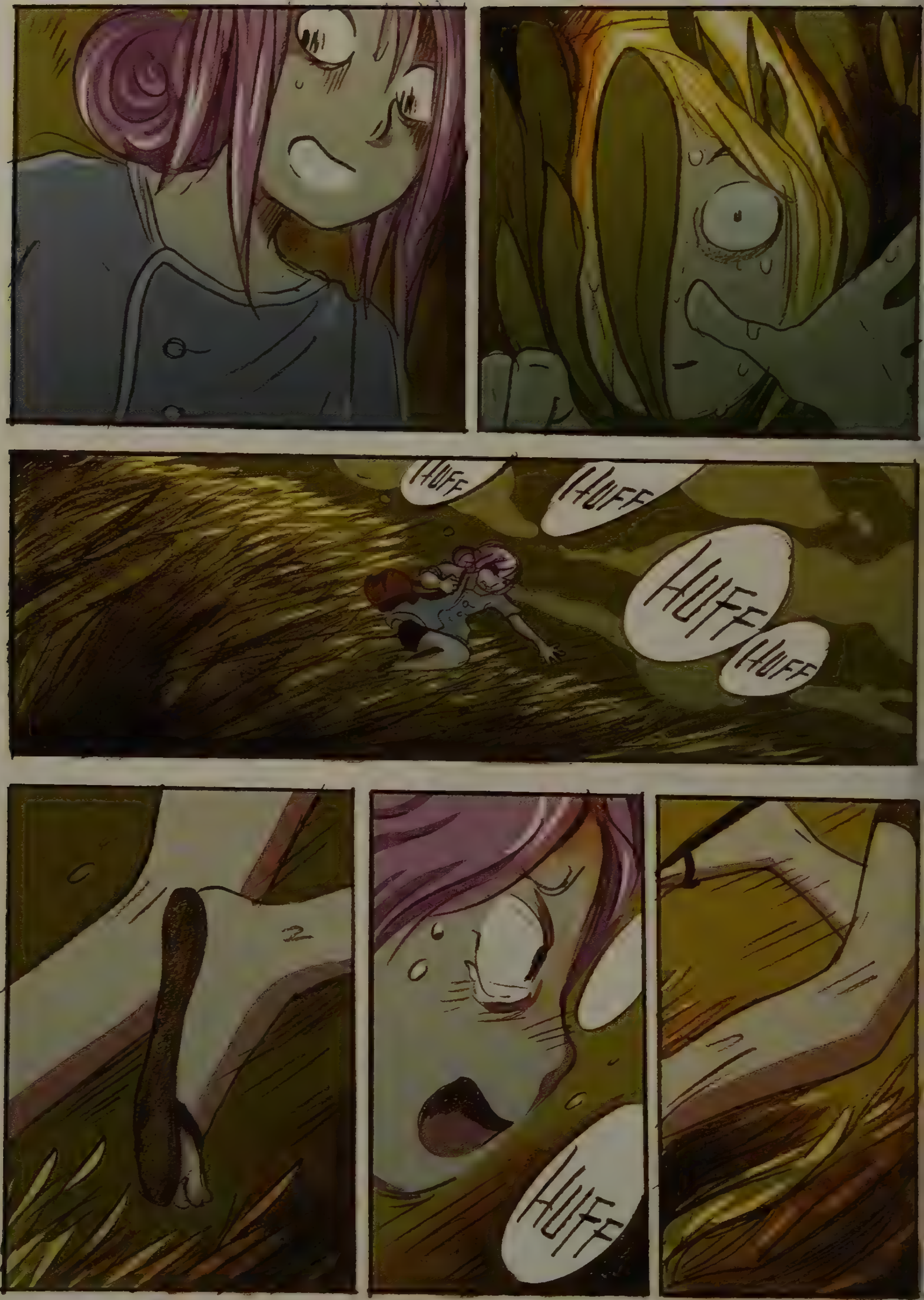

HNG!
HHHHH!
!!!!
Do you get it now, you coward? How lucky you are!?

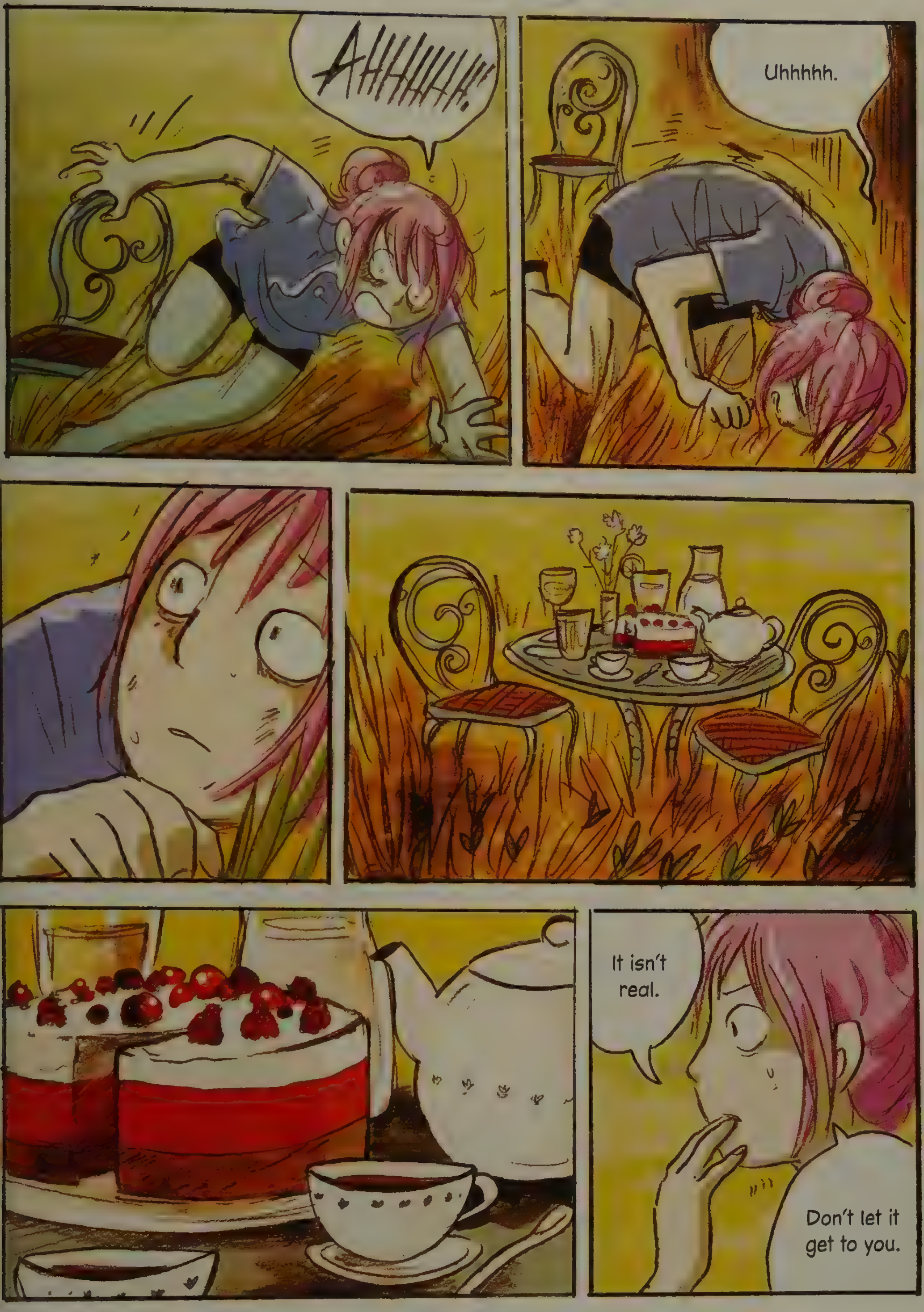

We're splitting up. It's better that way.

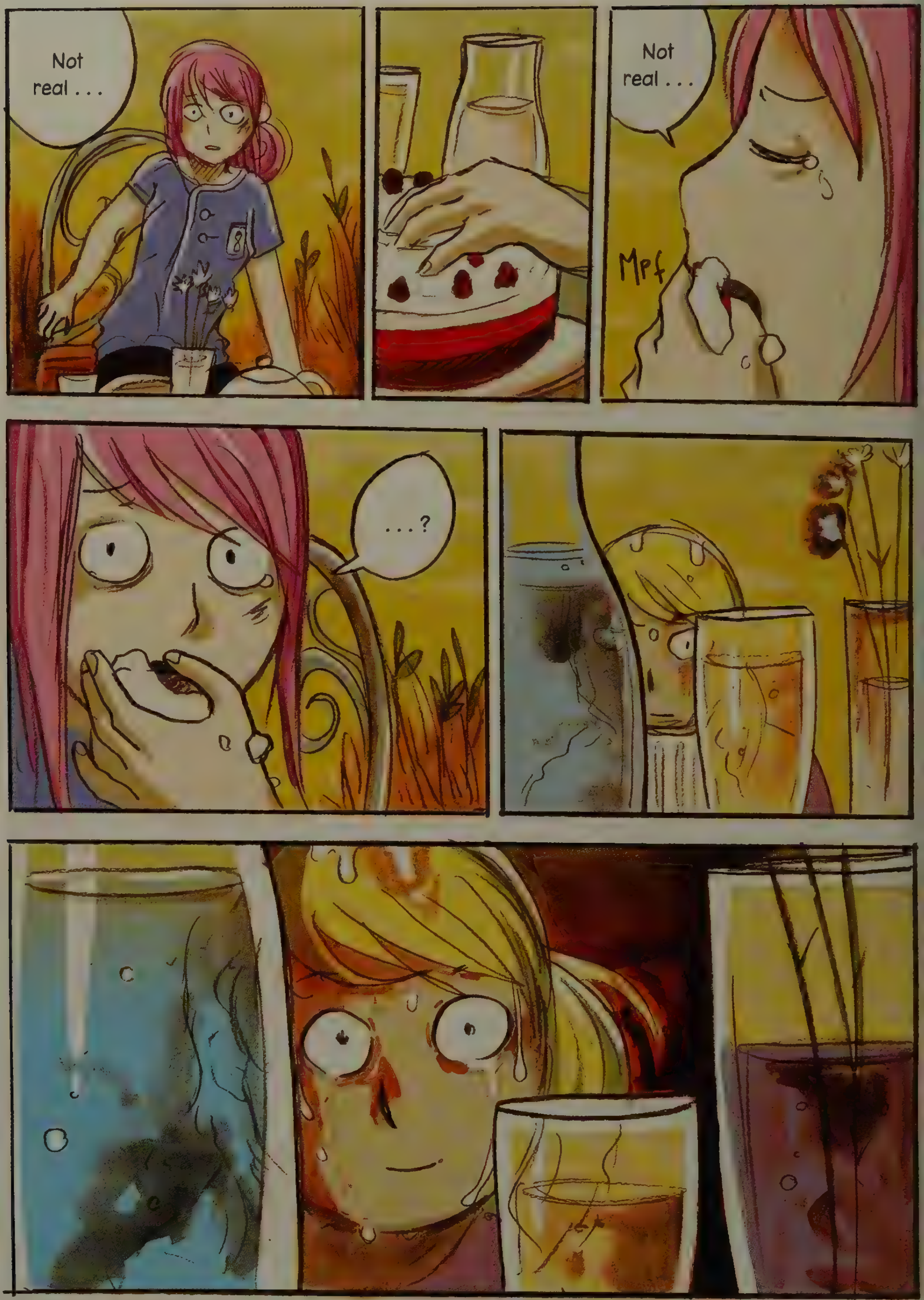


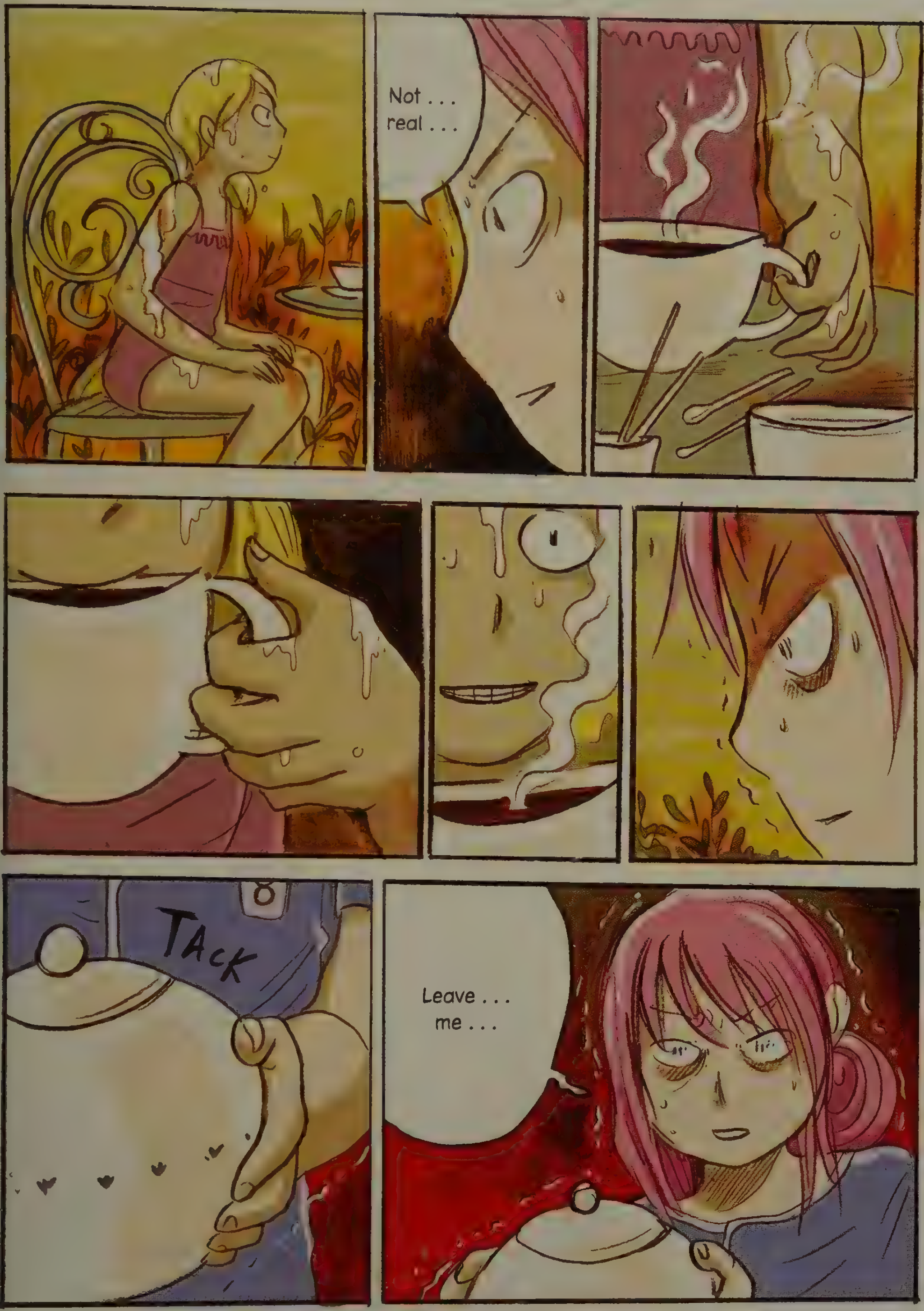

Huh? Where'd all of you come from?
Maybe you waited till all the people were gone.

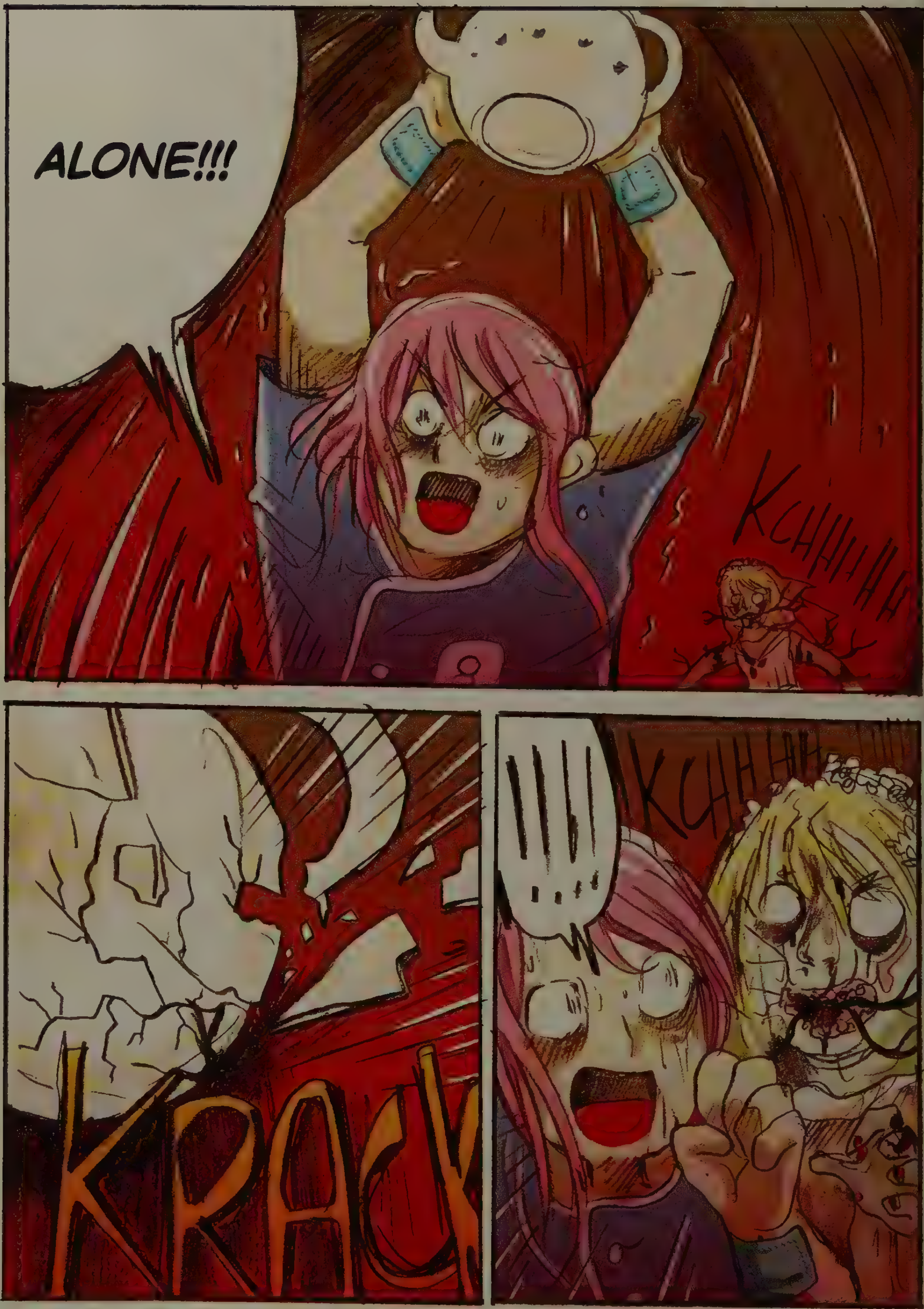

What about you? Why aren't you spinning?
The wind's blowing . . .
WShhh
. . .
Hmm?
Fly, you!
RUSTLE
Huh?

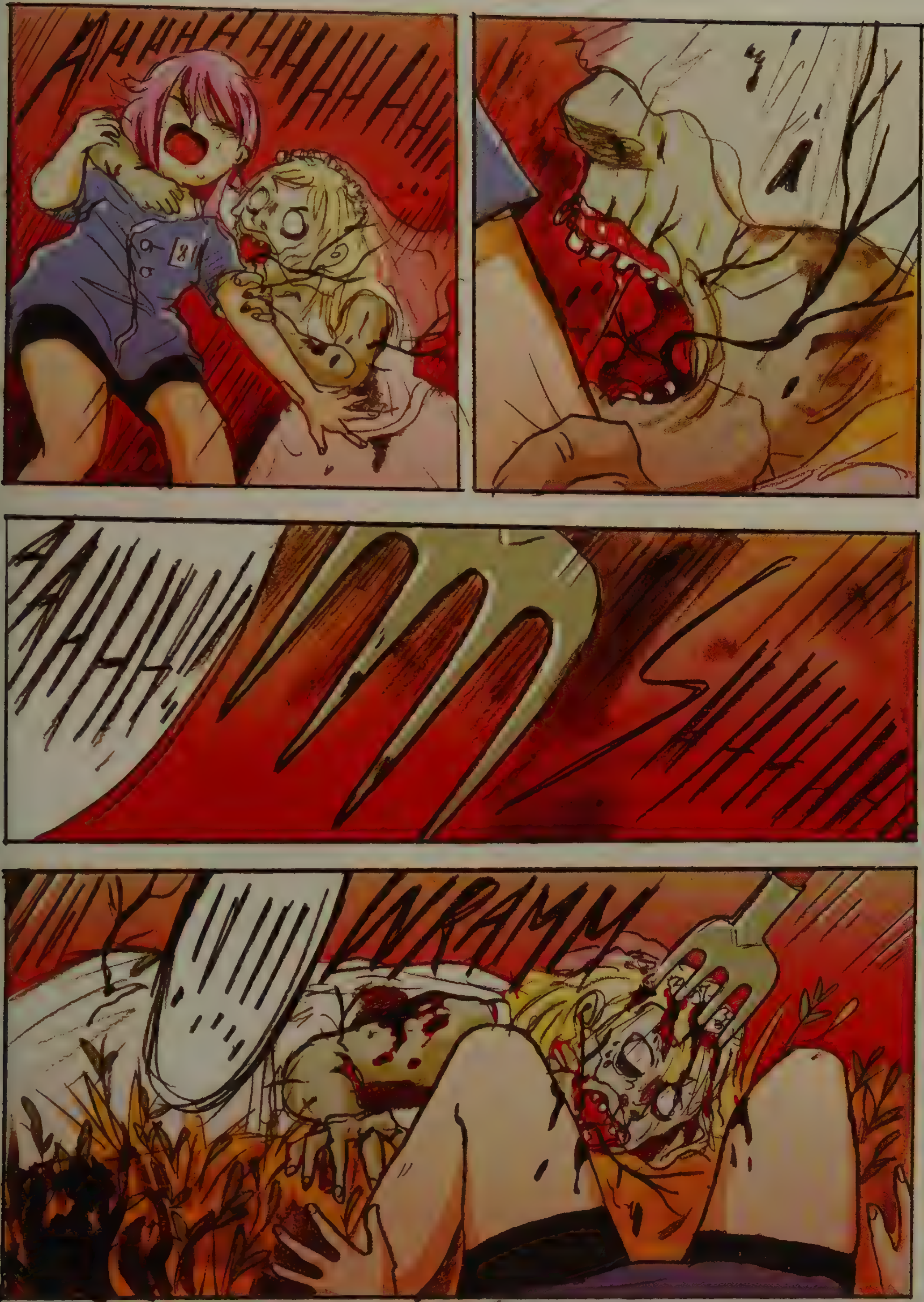

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

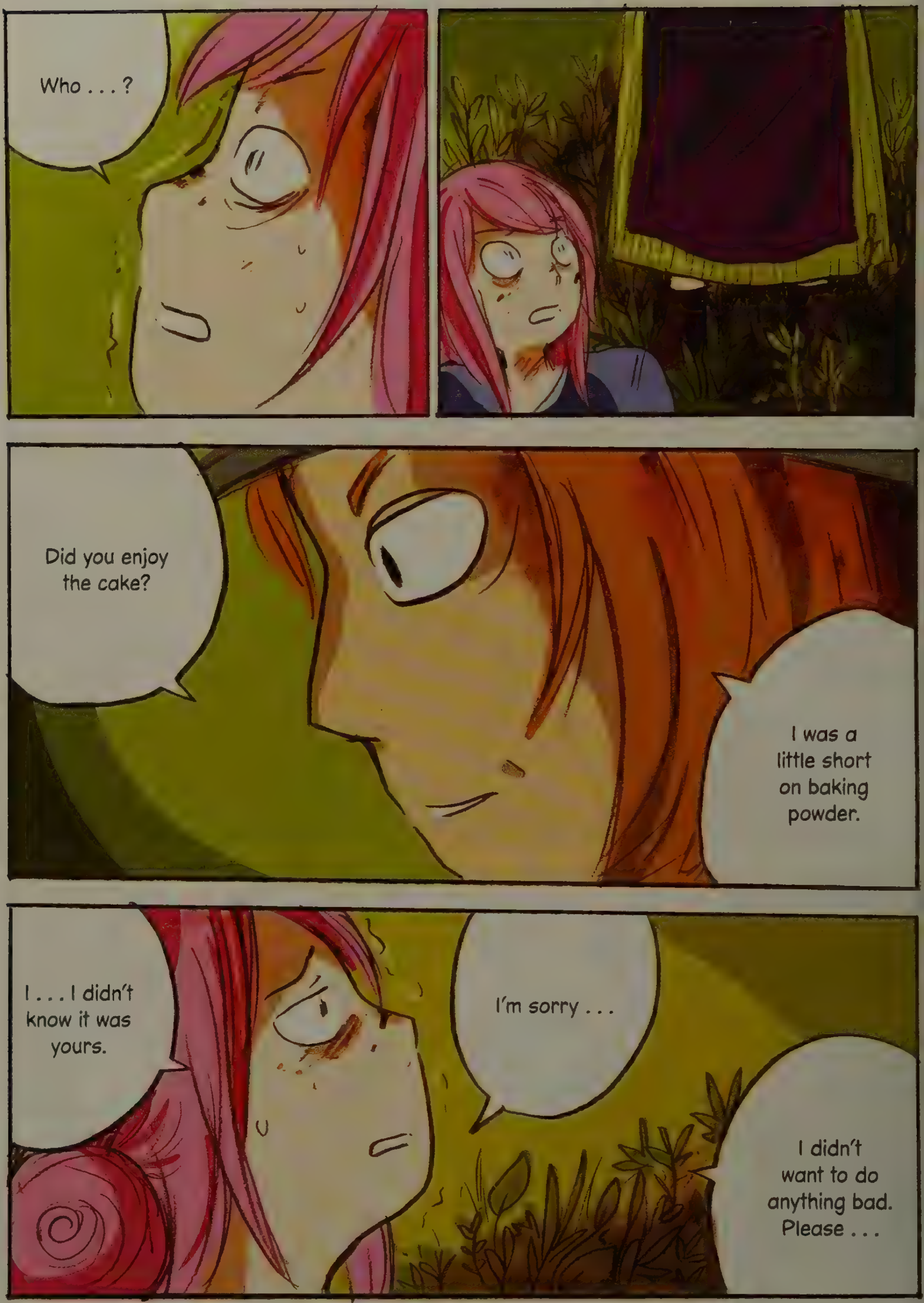

AHHHHH!!
Uhhhhh.
It isn't real.
Don't let it get to you.

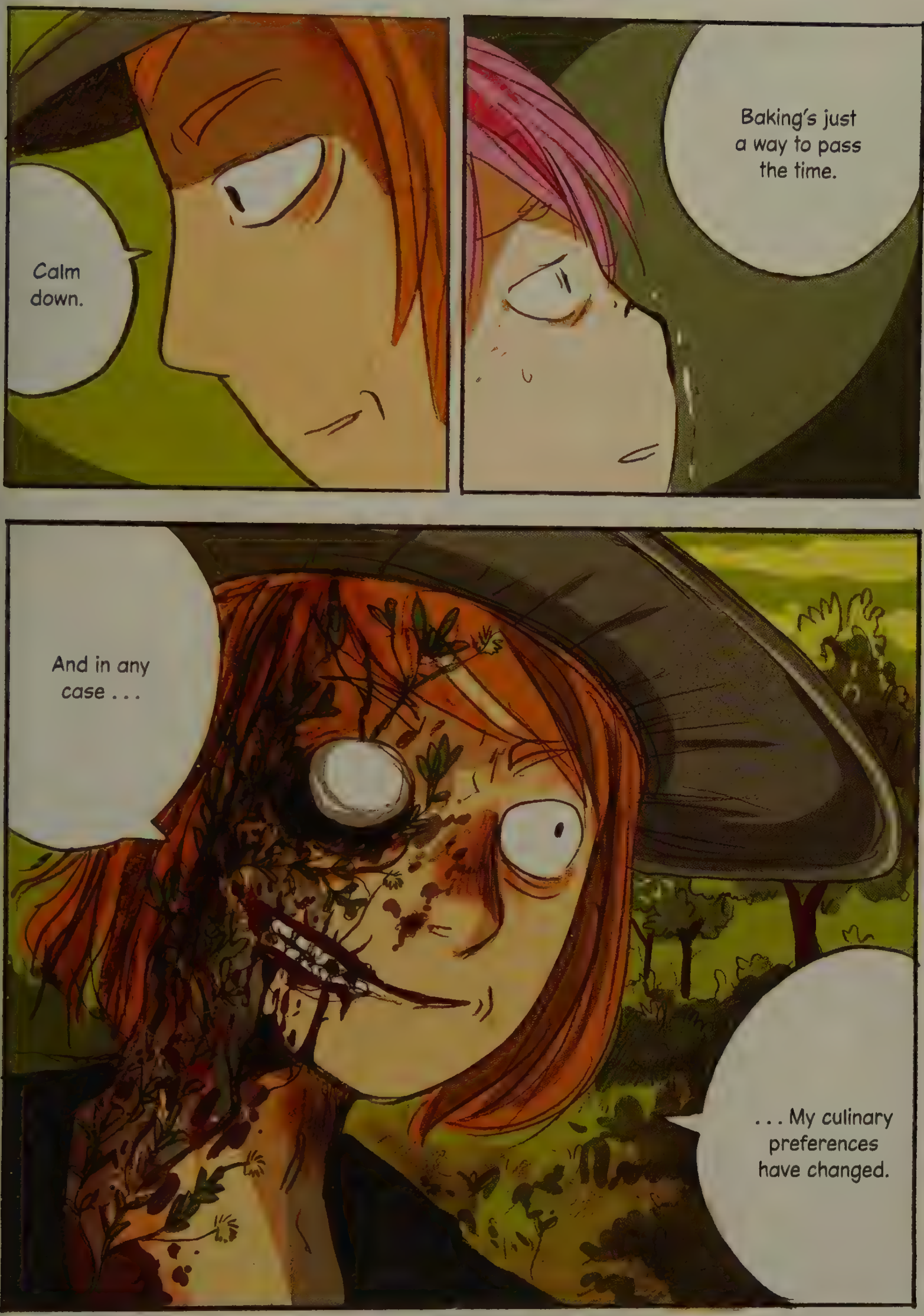

Not real . . .
Not real . . .
Mpf
. . . ?

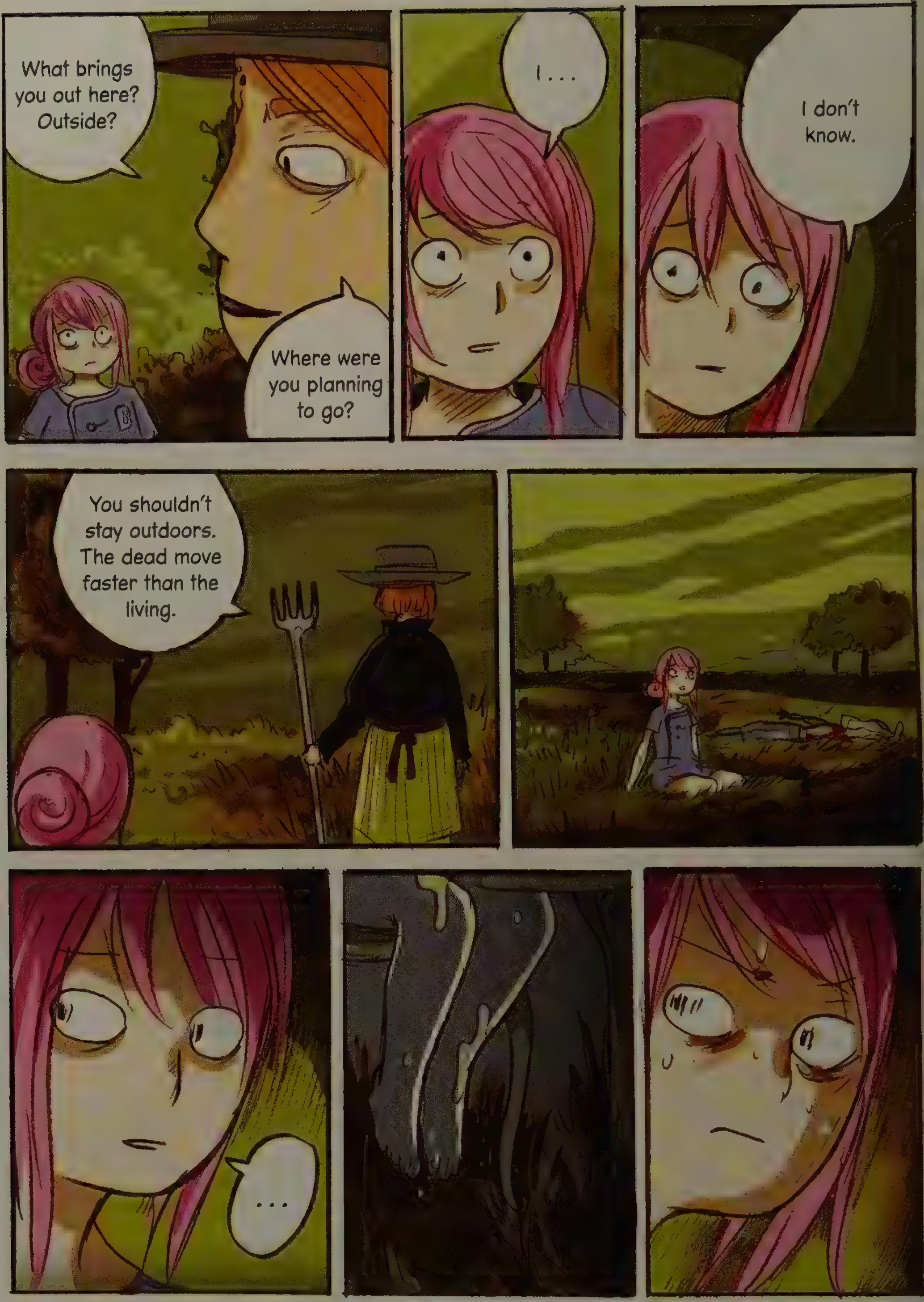

Not . . .
real . . .
TACK
Leave . . .
me . . .

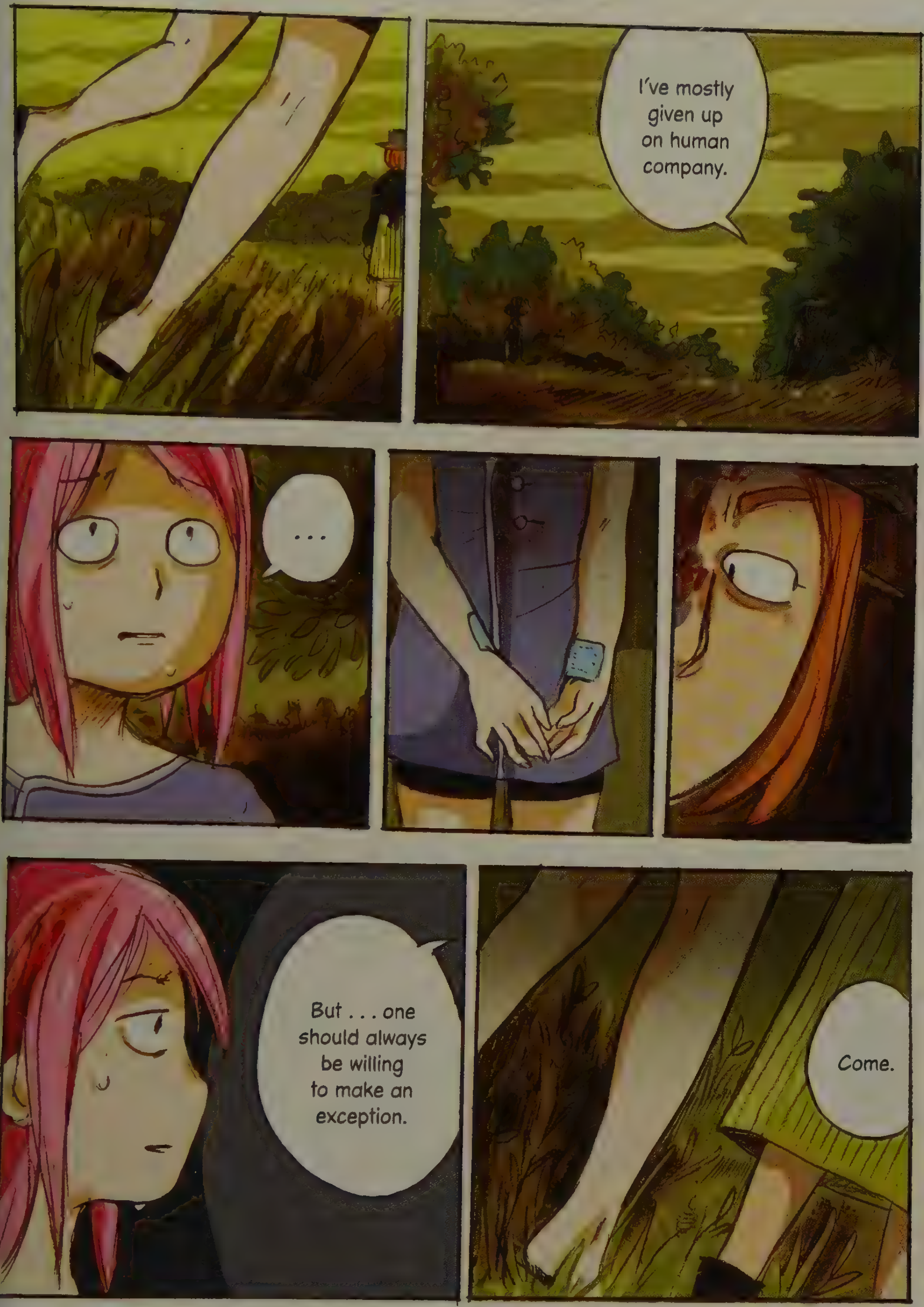

ALONE!!!
KCHHHHHH
KRACK
KCHHHH
!!!!

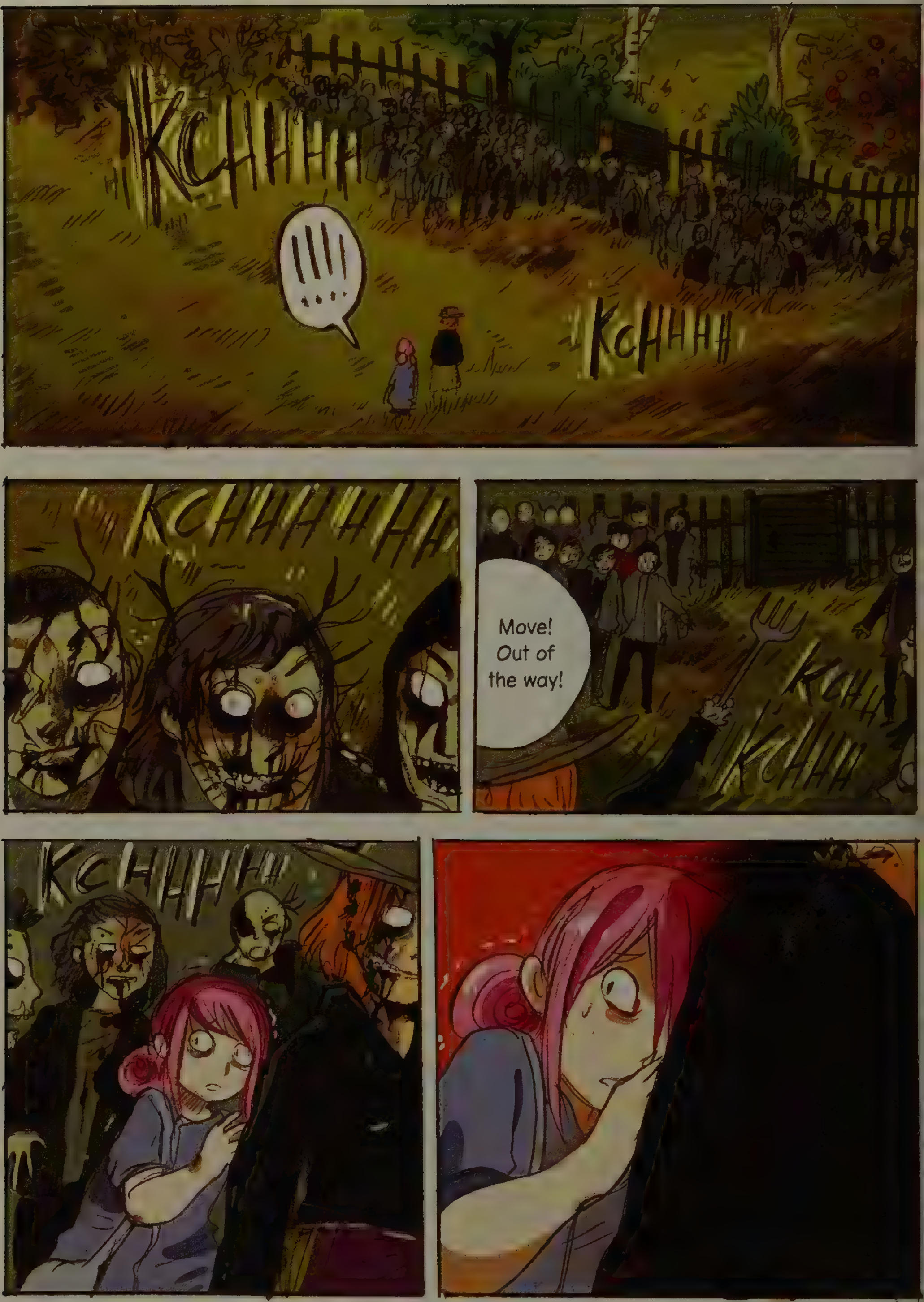

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
AAHHHH
SHHHHH
WRAMM

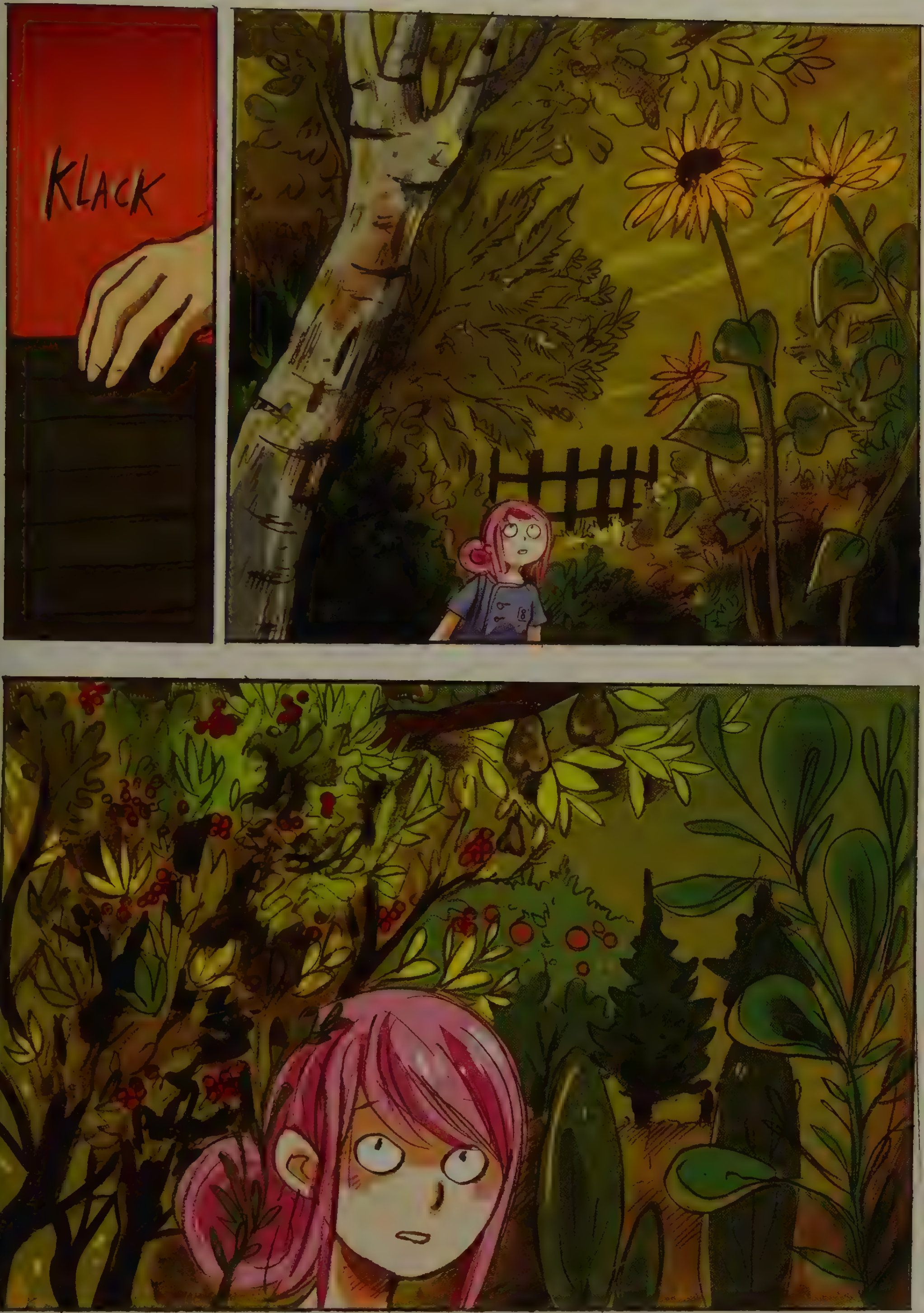

Who . . . ?
Did you enjoy the cake?
I was a little short on baking powder.
I . . . I didn't know it was yours.
I'm sorry . . .
I didn't want to do anything bad. Please . . .

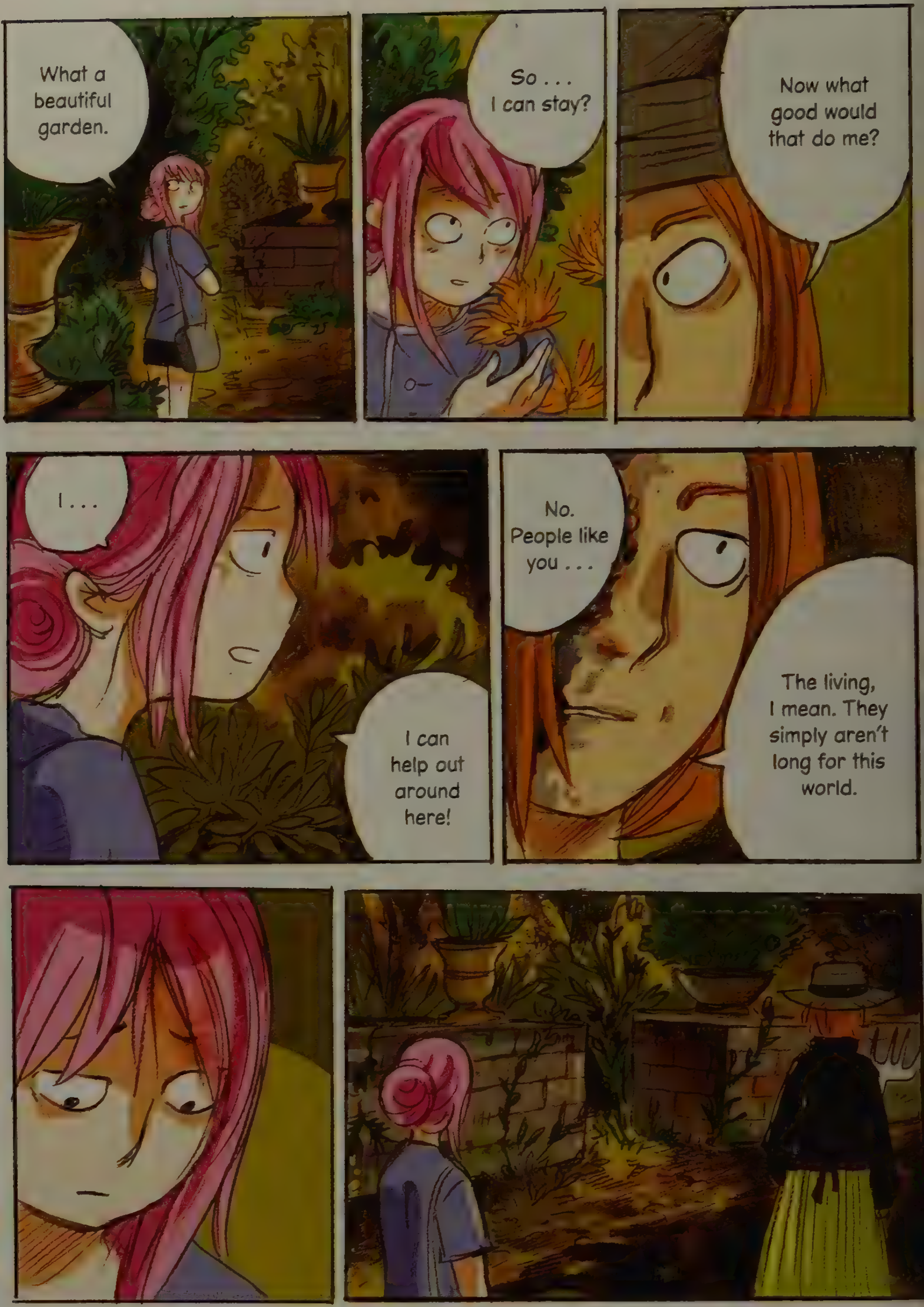

Calm down.
Baking's just a way to pass the time.
And in any case . . .
. . . My culinary preferences have changed.

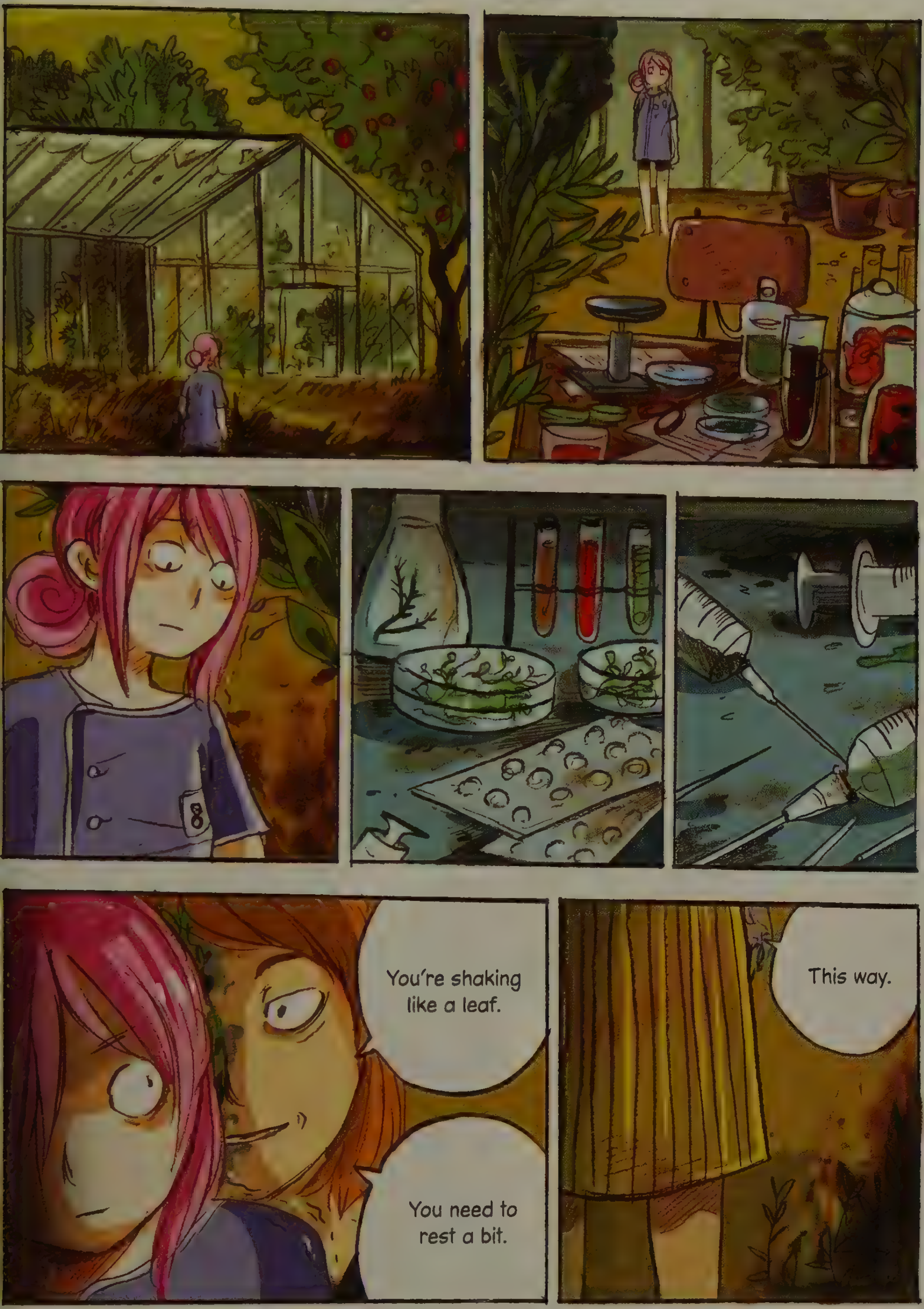

What brings you out here? Outside?
Where were you planning to go?
I . . .
I don't know.
You shouldn't stay outdoors. The dead move faster than the living.
. . .

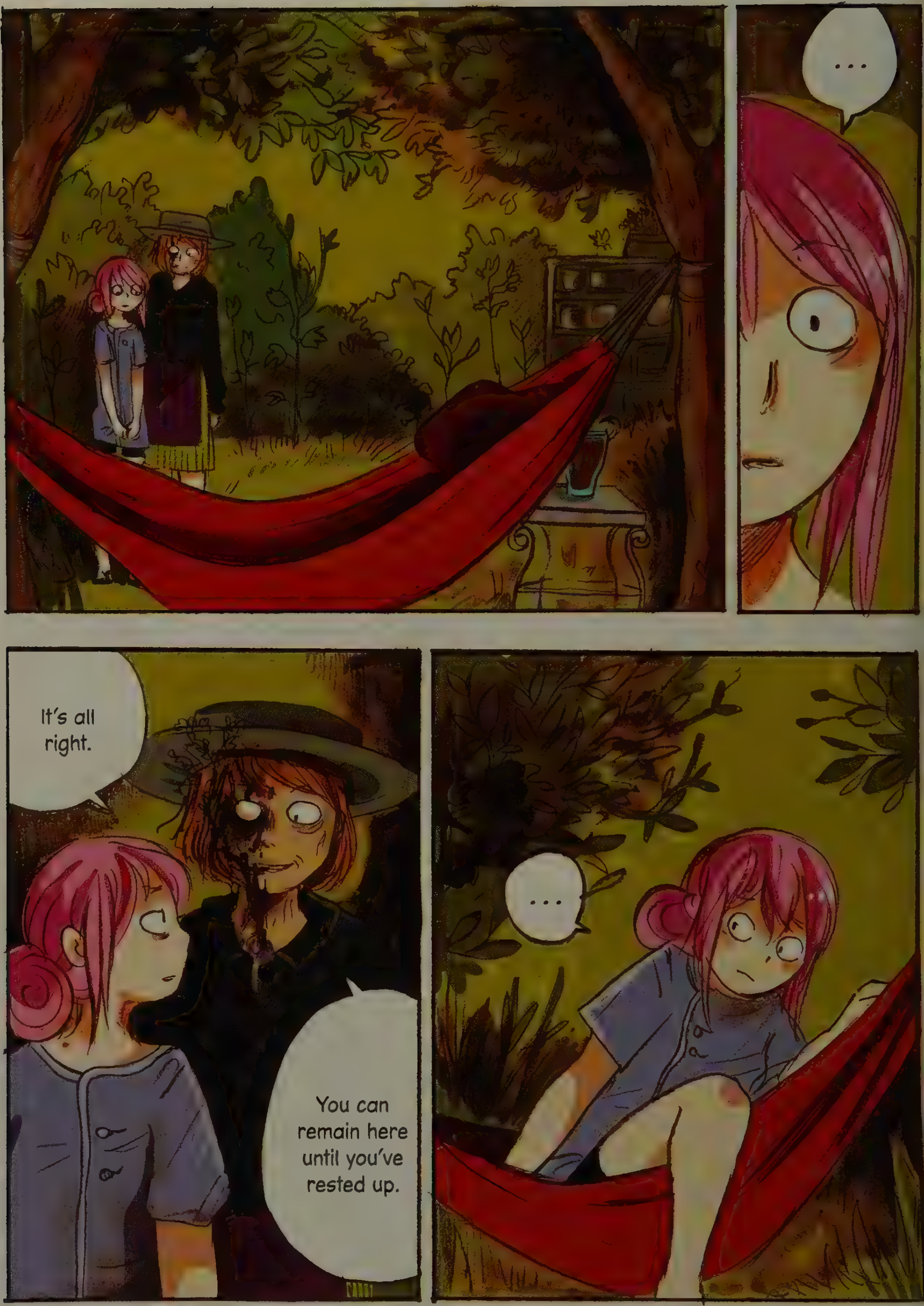

I've mostly given up on human company.
. . .
But . . . one should always be willing to make an exception.
Come.

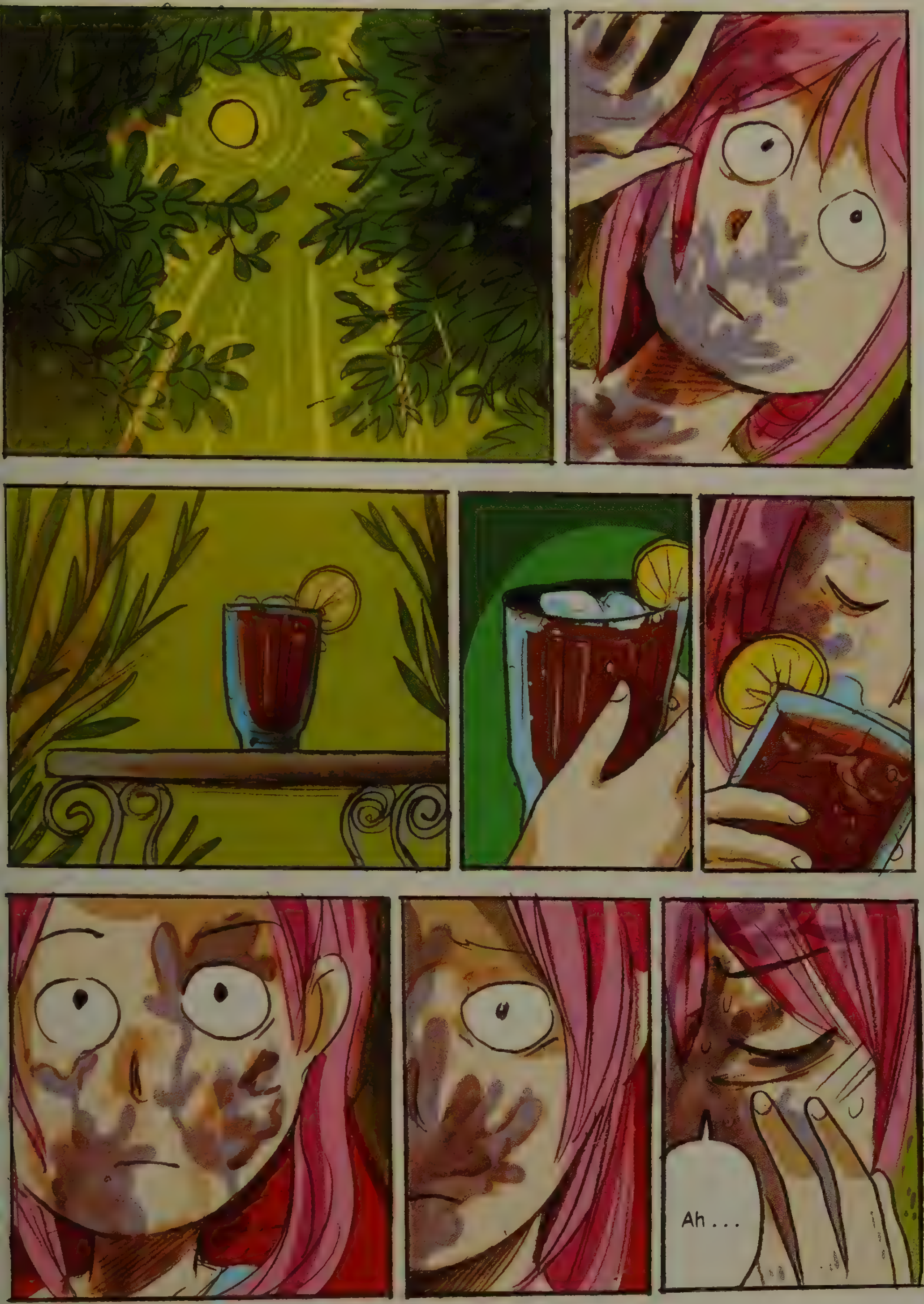

KCHHHH
!!!!...
KCHHHH
KCHHHHHHH
Move! Out of the way!
KCHH
KCHHH
KCHHHHH

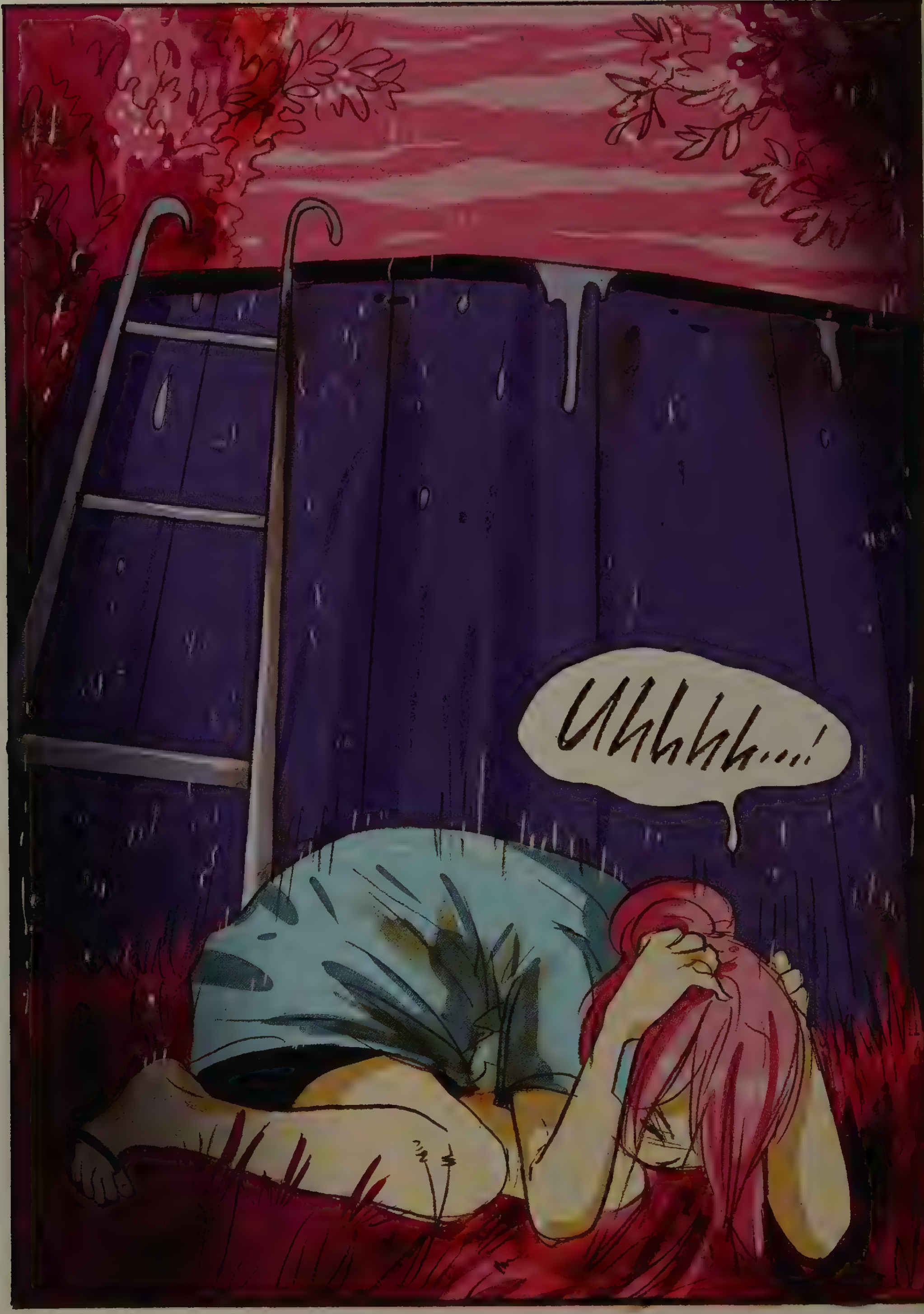

KLACK

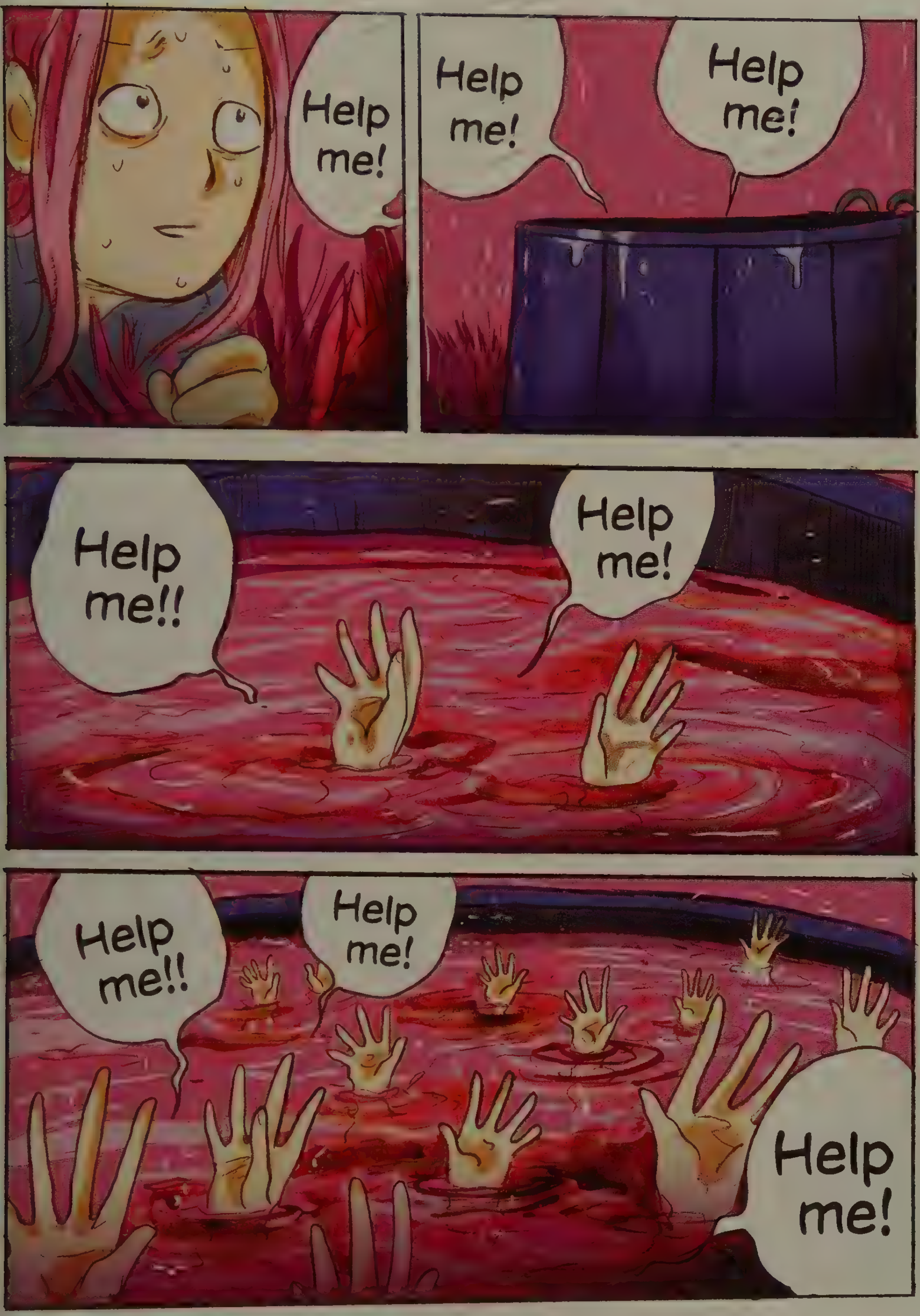

What a beautiful garden.
So . . . I can stay?
Now what good would that do me?
I . . .
I can help out around here!
No. People like you . . .
The living, I mean. They simply aren't long for this world.

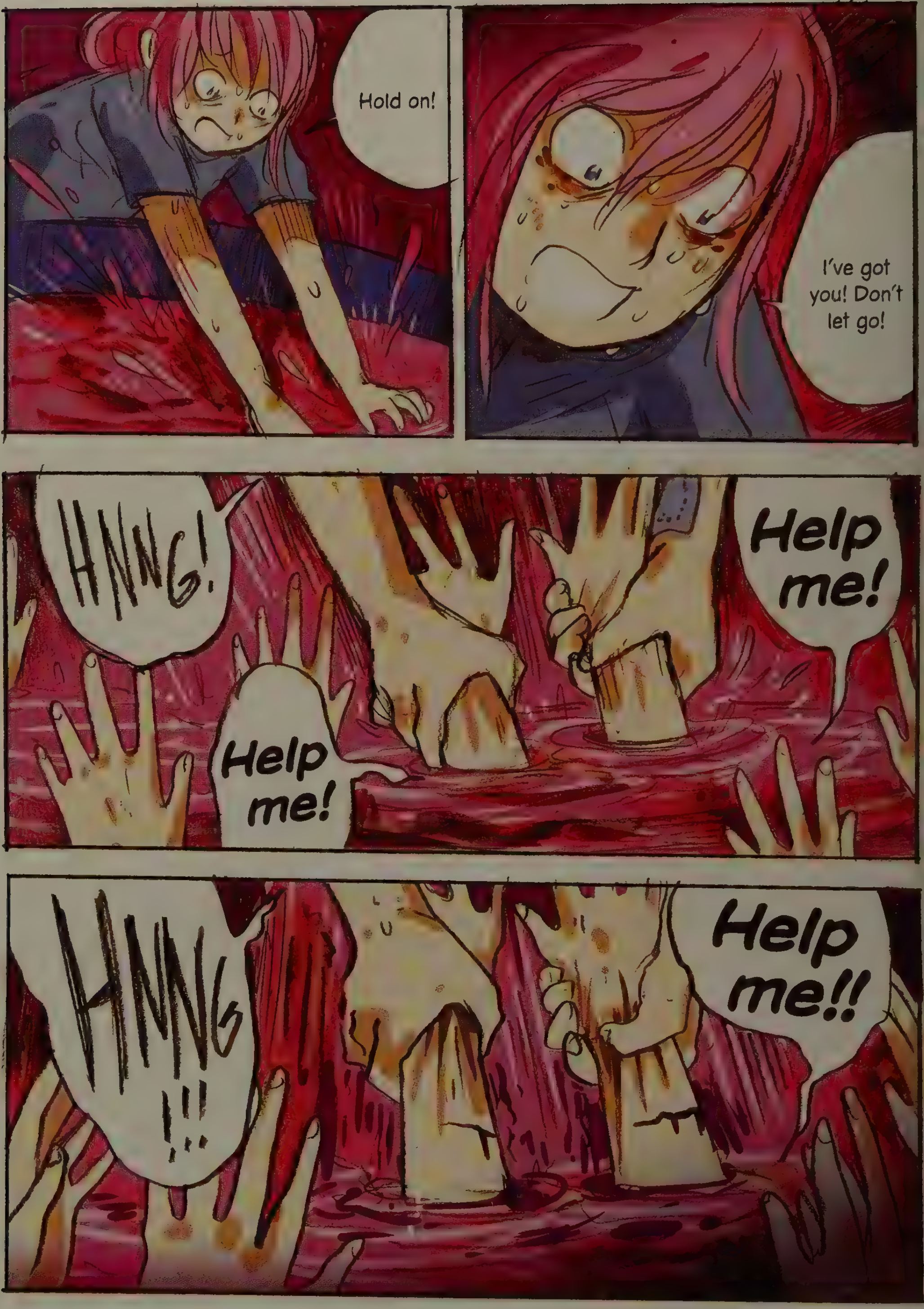

You're shaking like a leaf.
You need to rest a bit.
This way.

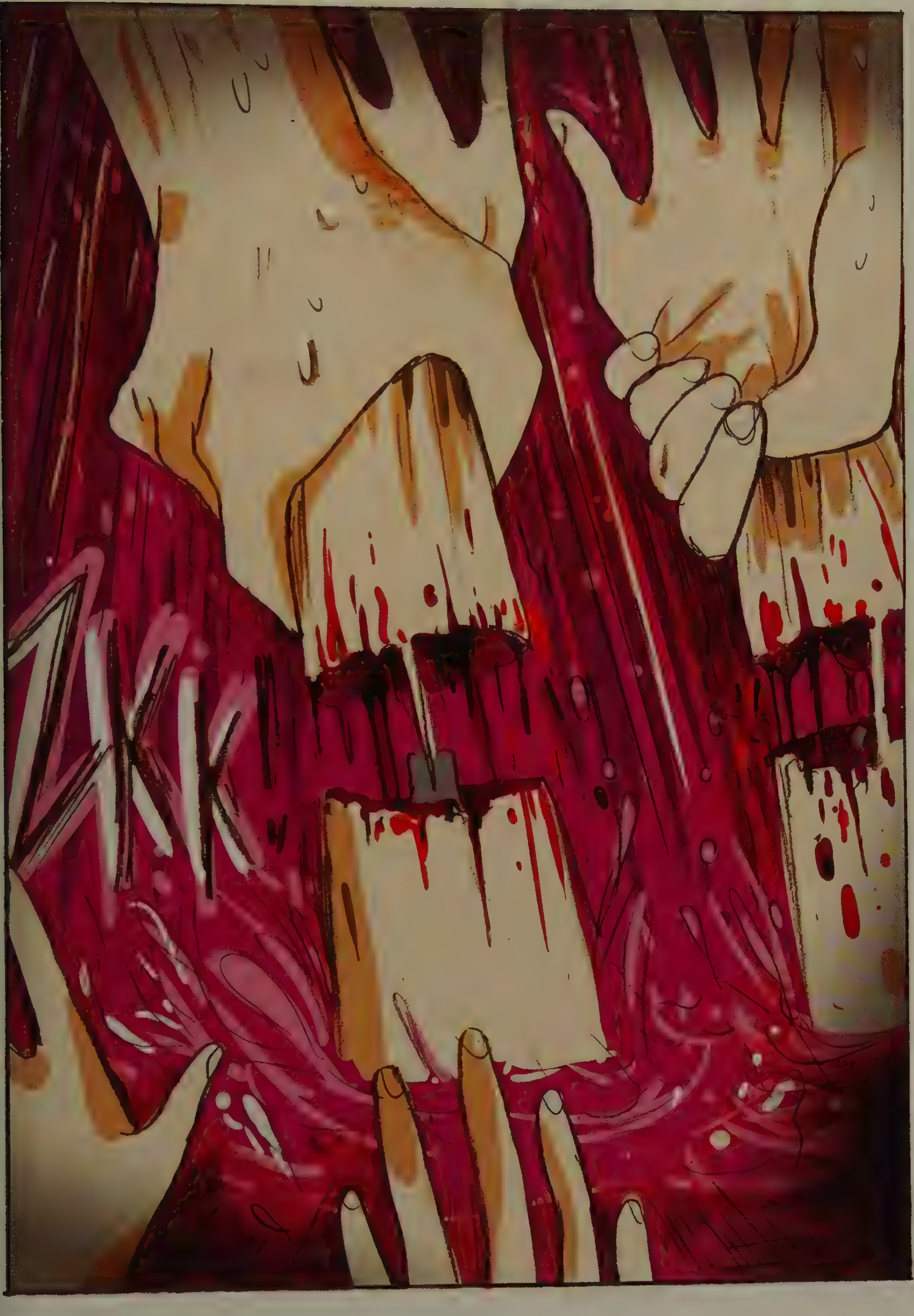

...
It's all right.
You can remain here until you've rested up.
...

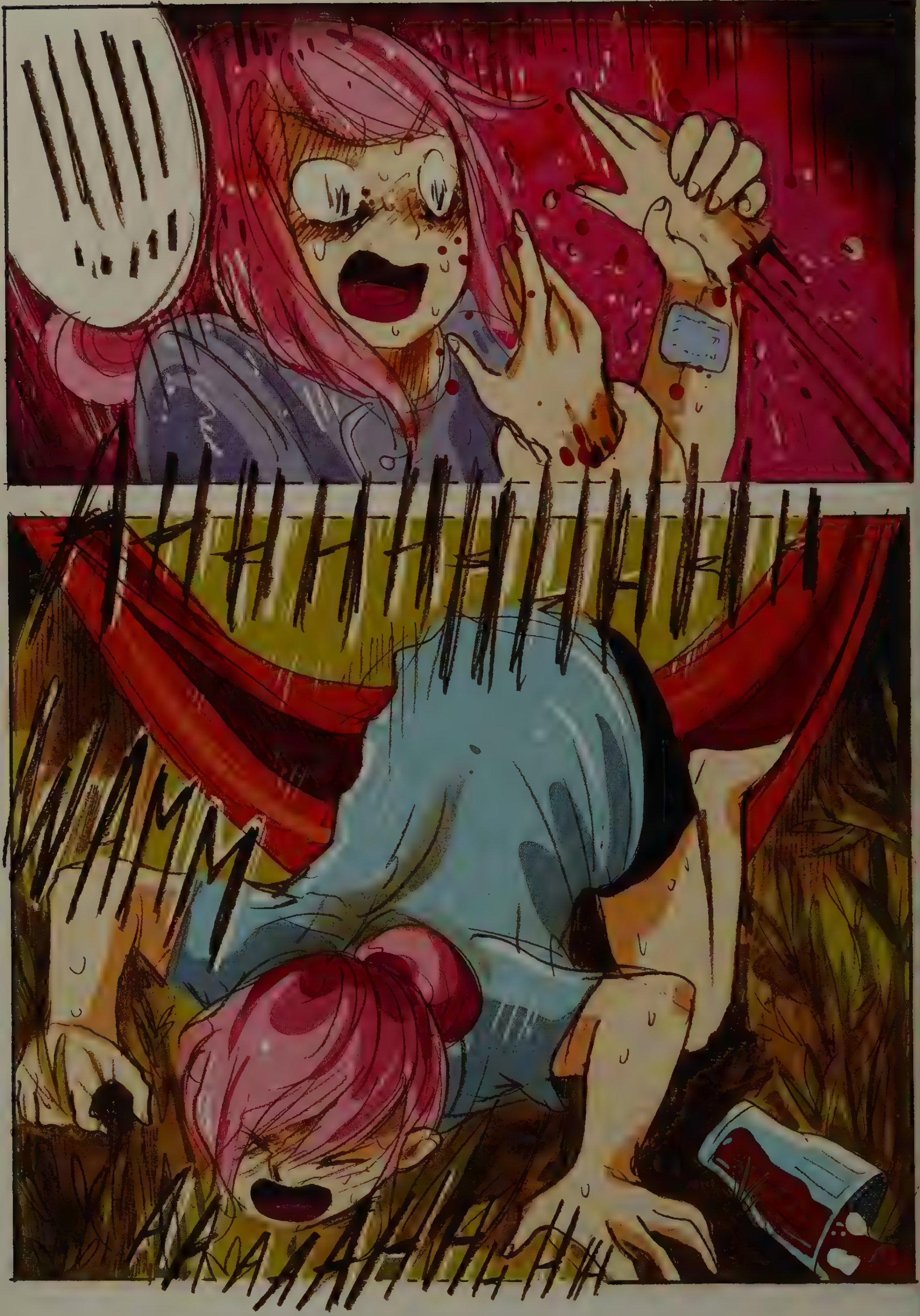

Ah . . .

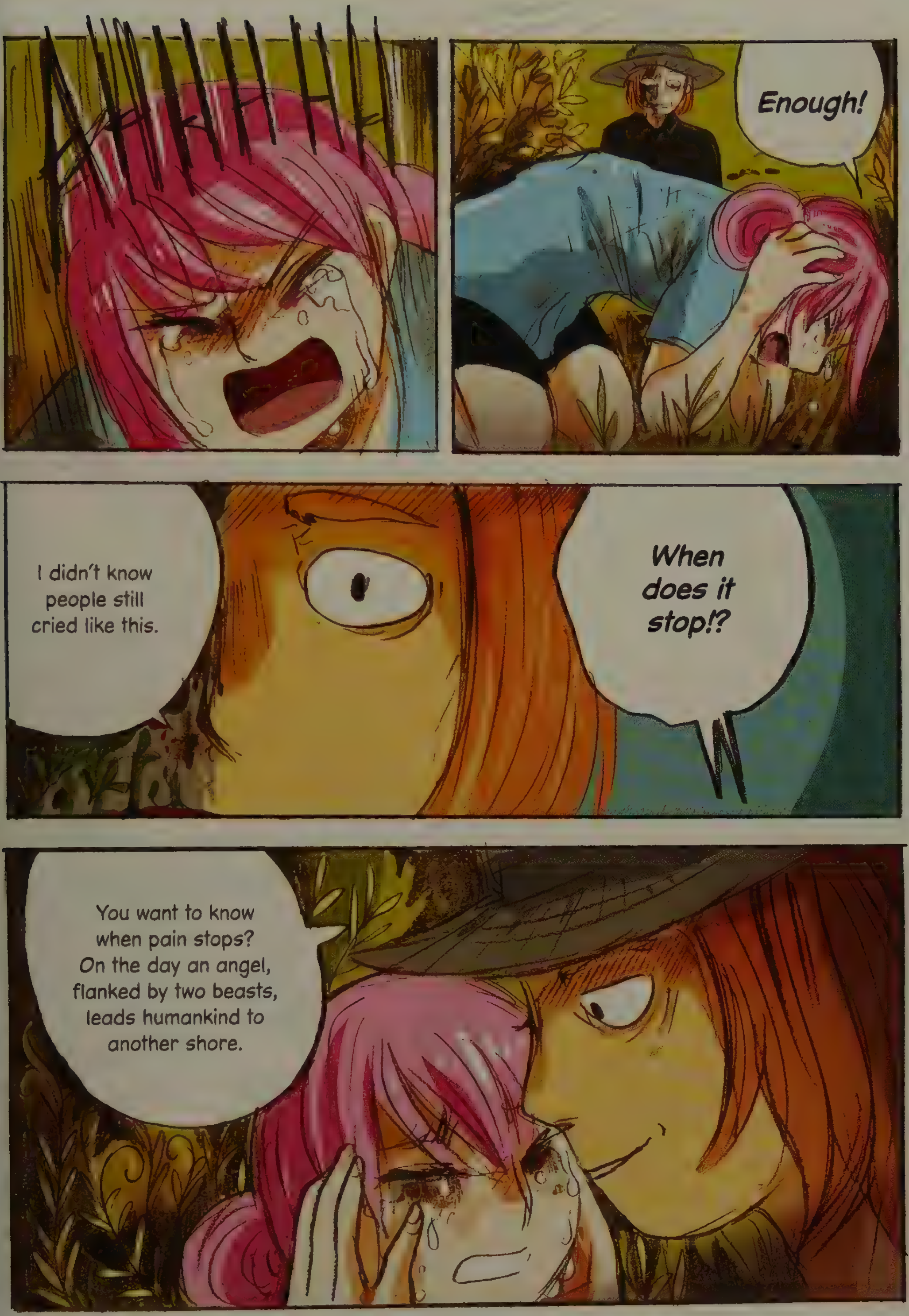

Uhhhh...!

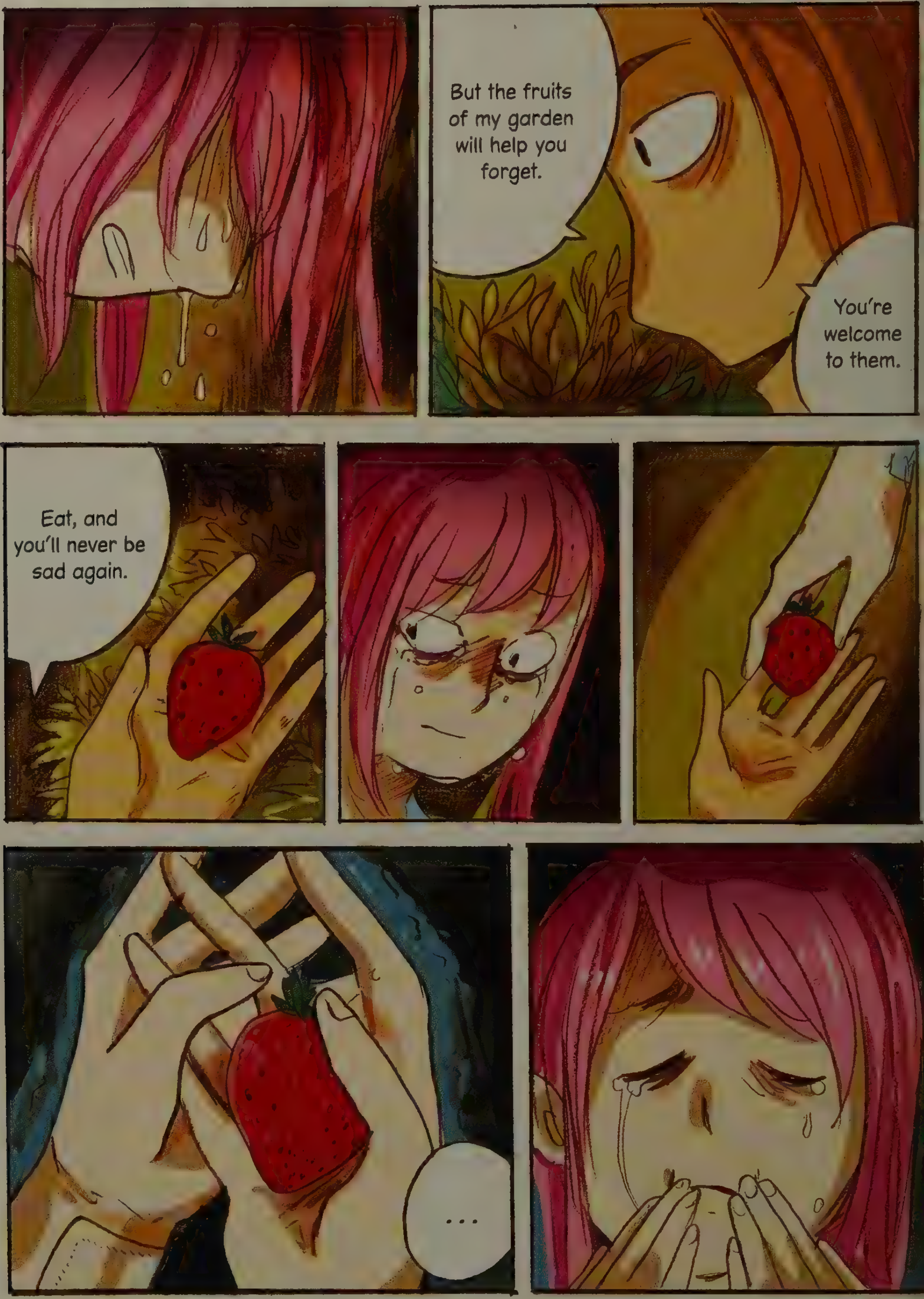

Help me!
Help me!
Help me!
Help me!!
Help me!
Help me!!
Help me!
Help me!

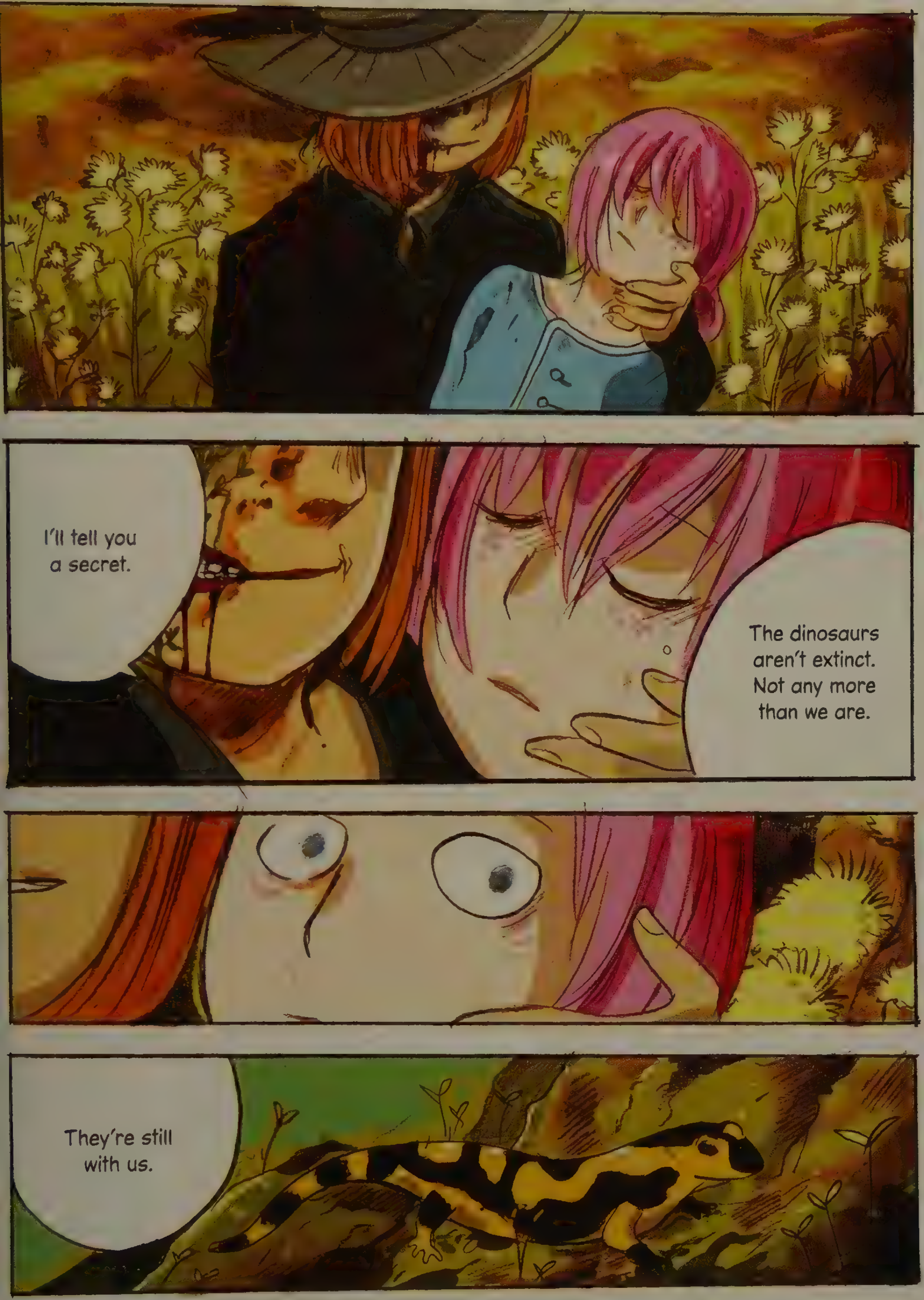

Hold on!
I've got you! Don't let go!
HNNG!
Help me!
Help me!
HNNG!!!
Help me!!

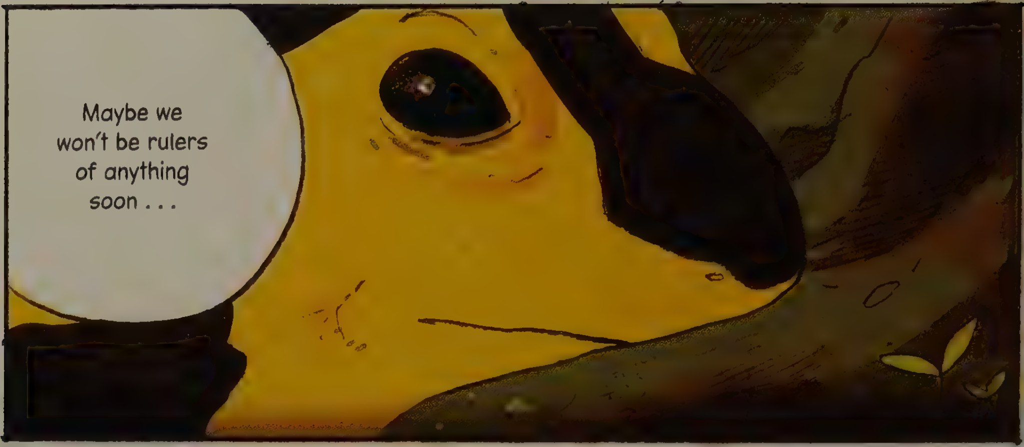

ZKK

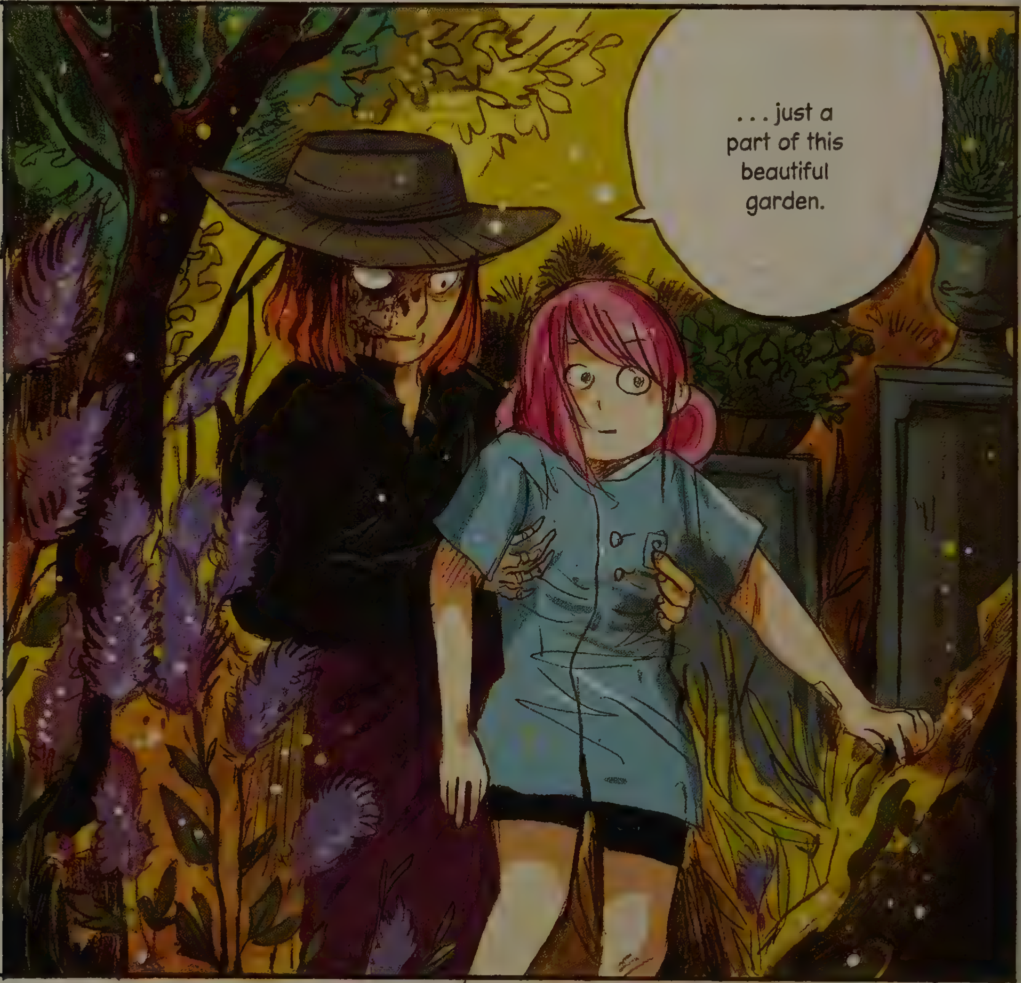

!!!!!...
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
WAMMM
AAAAAAHHHHHHHH

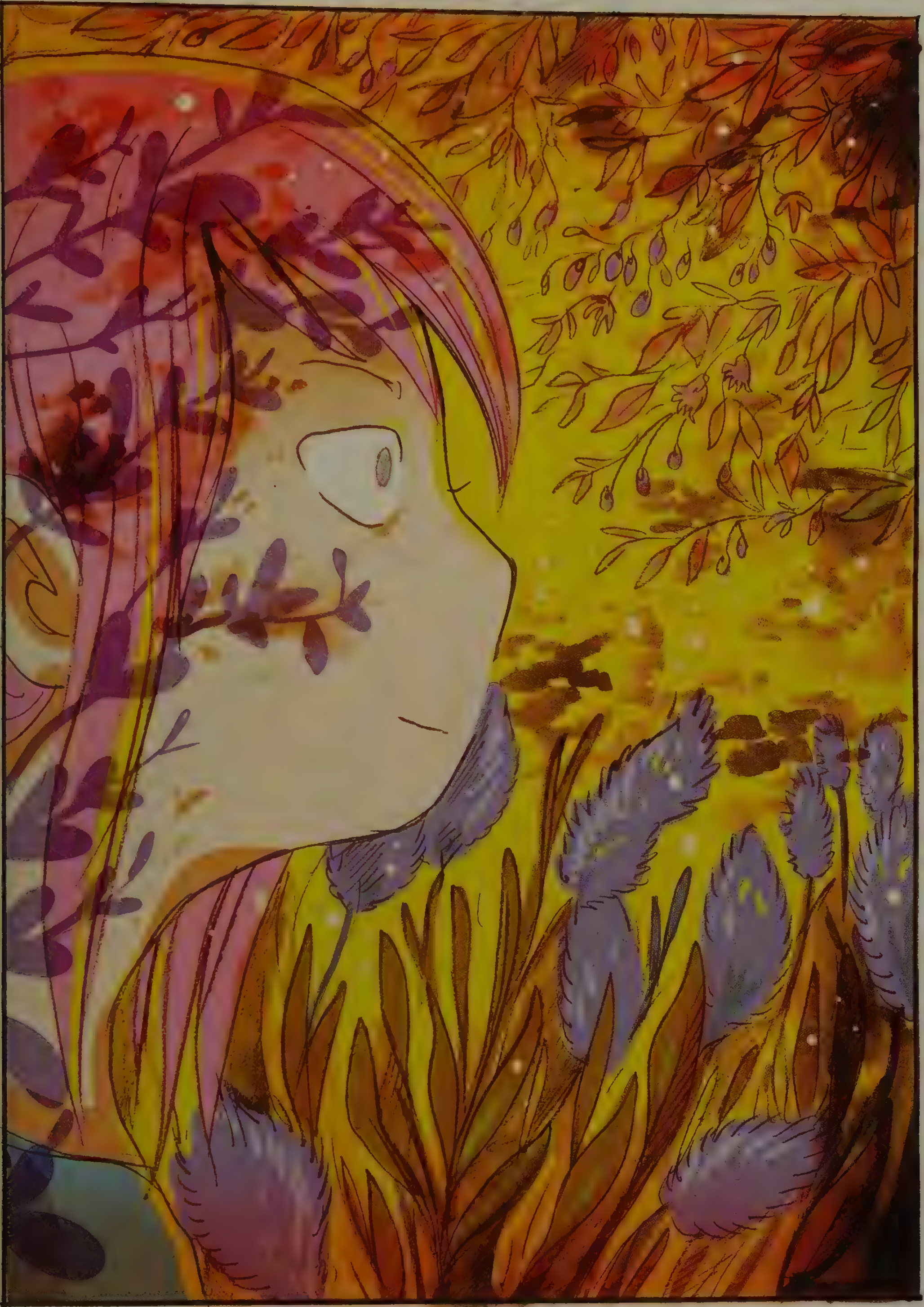

Enough!
I didn't know people still cried like this.
When does it stop!?
You want to know when pain stops? On the day an angel, flanked by two beasts, leads humankind to another shore.

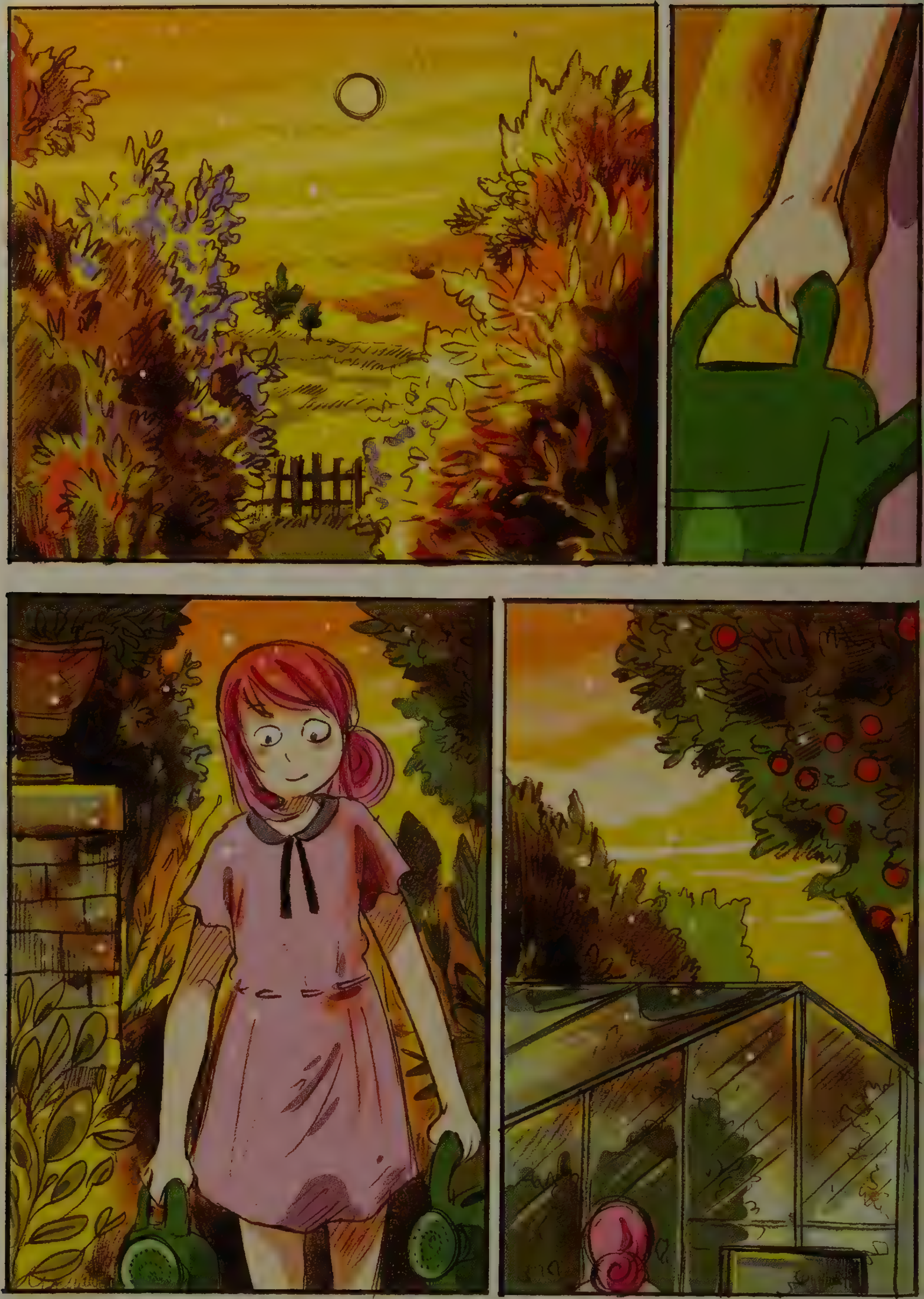

But the fruits of my garden will help you forget.
You're welcome to them.
Eat, and you'll never be sad again.
...

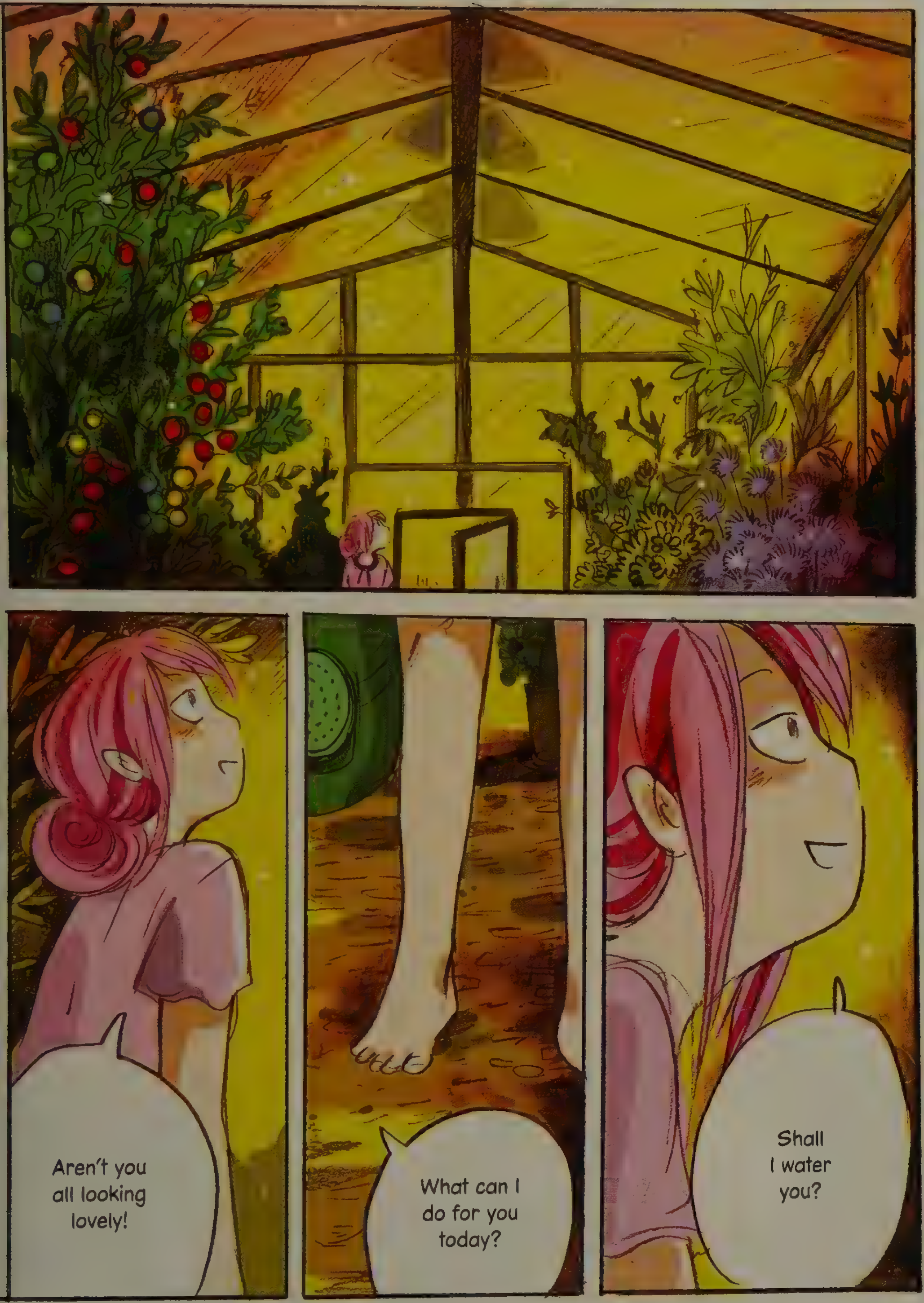

I'll tell you a secret.
The dinosaurs aren't extinct. Not any more than we are.
They're still with us.

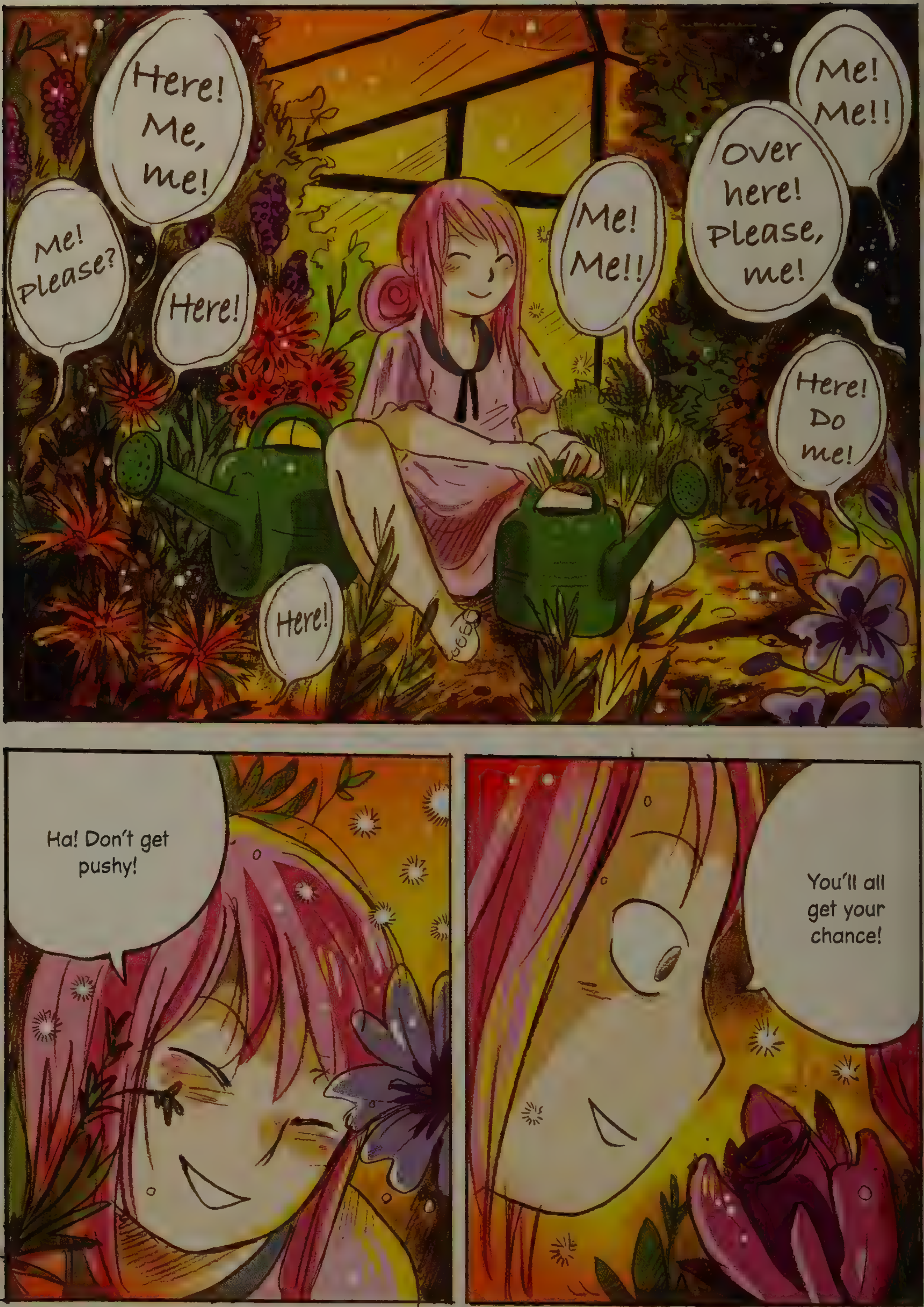

Maybe we won't be rulers of anything soon . . .

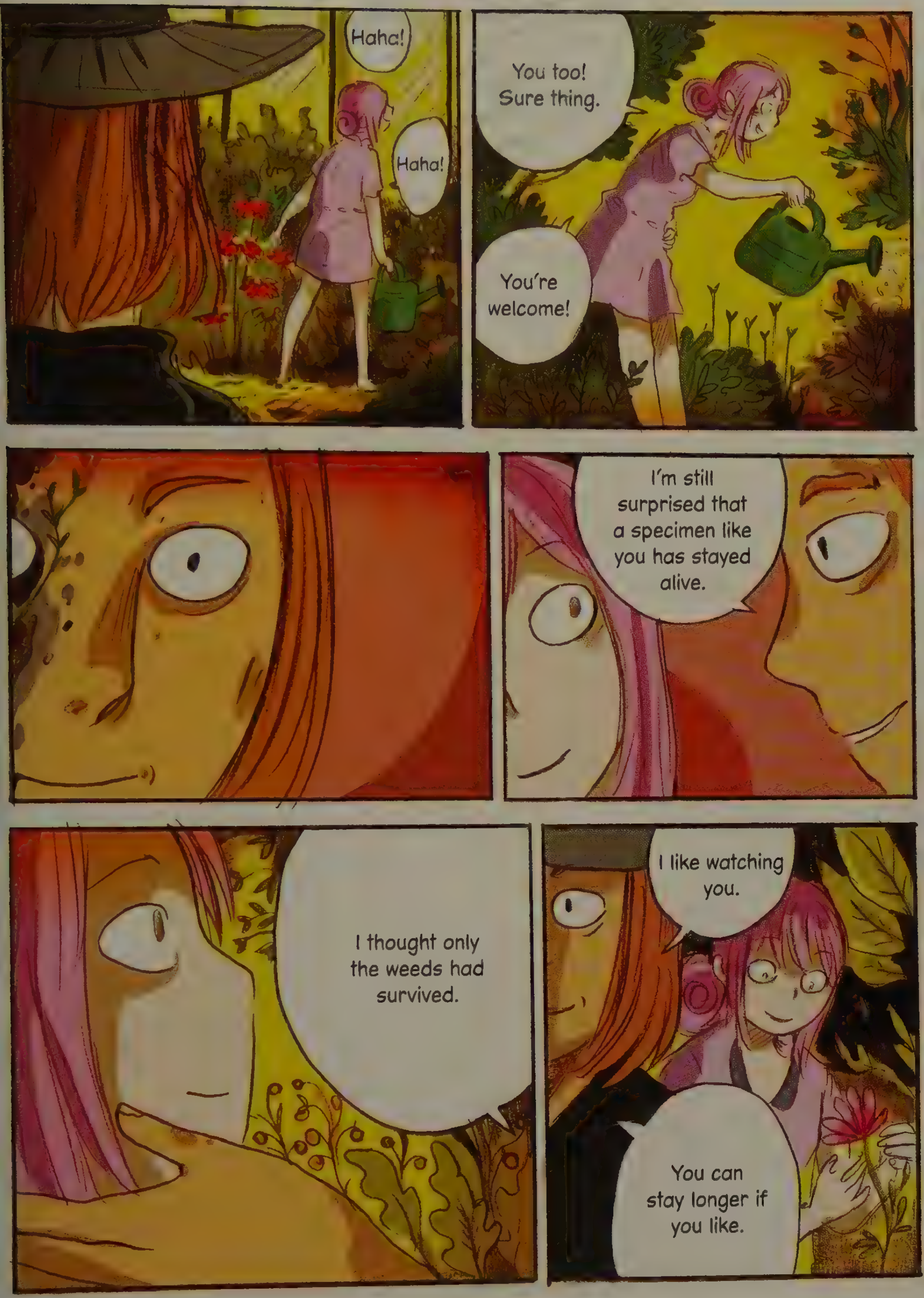

. . . just a part of this beautiful garden.

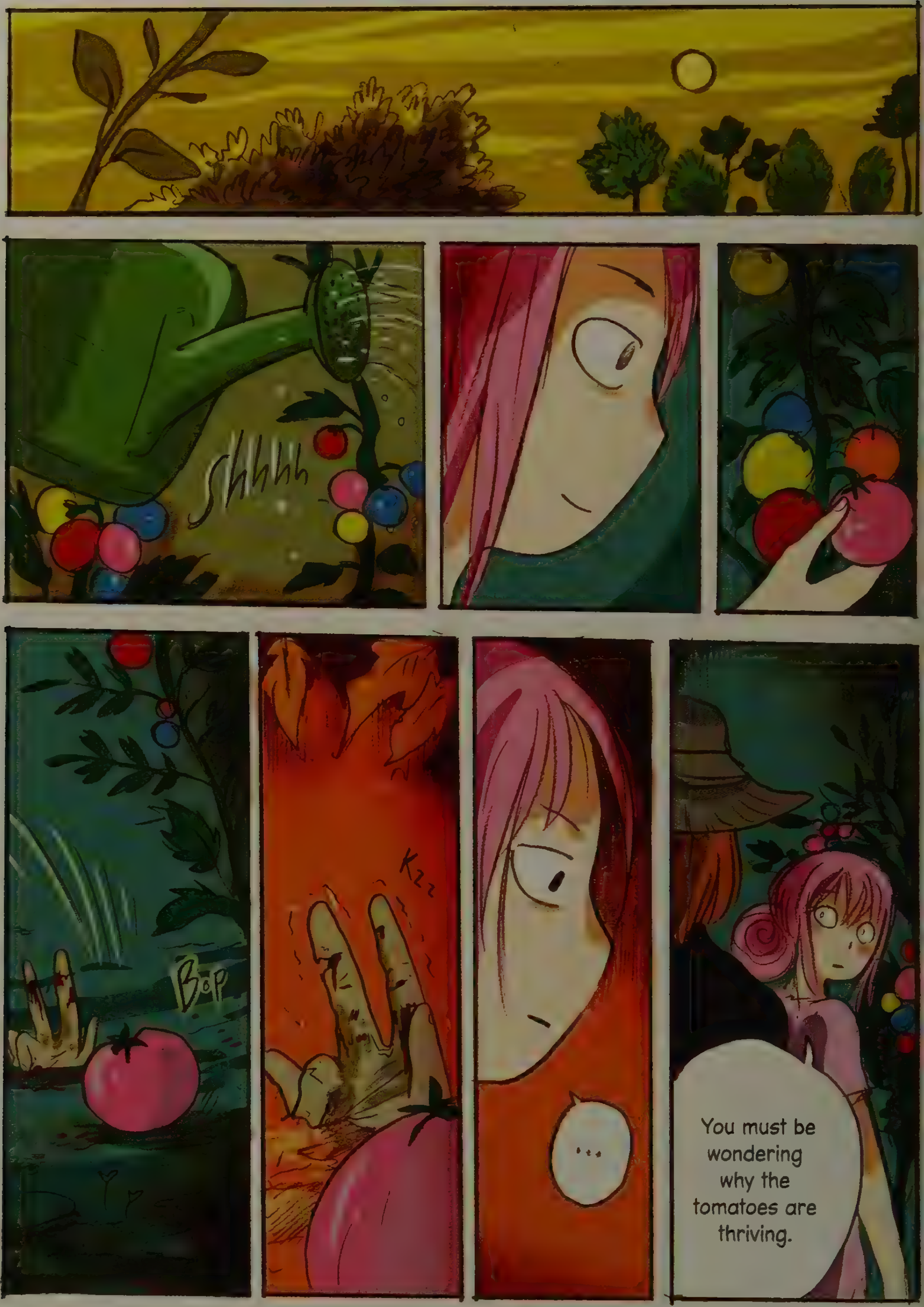


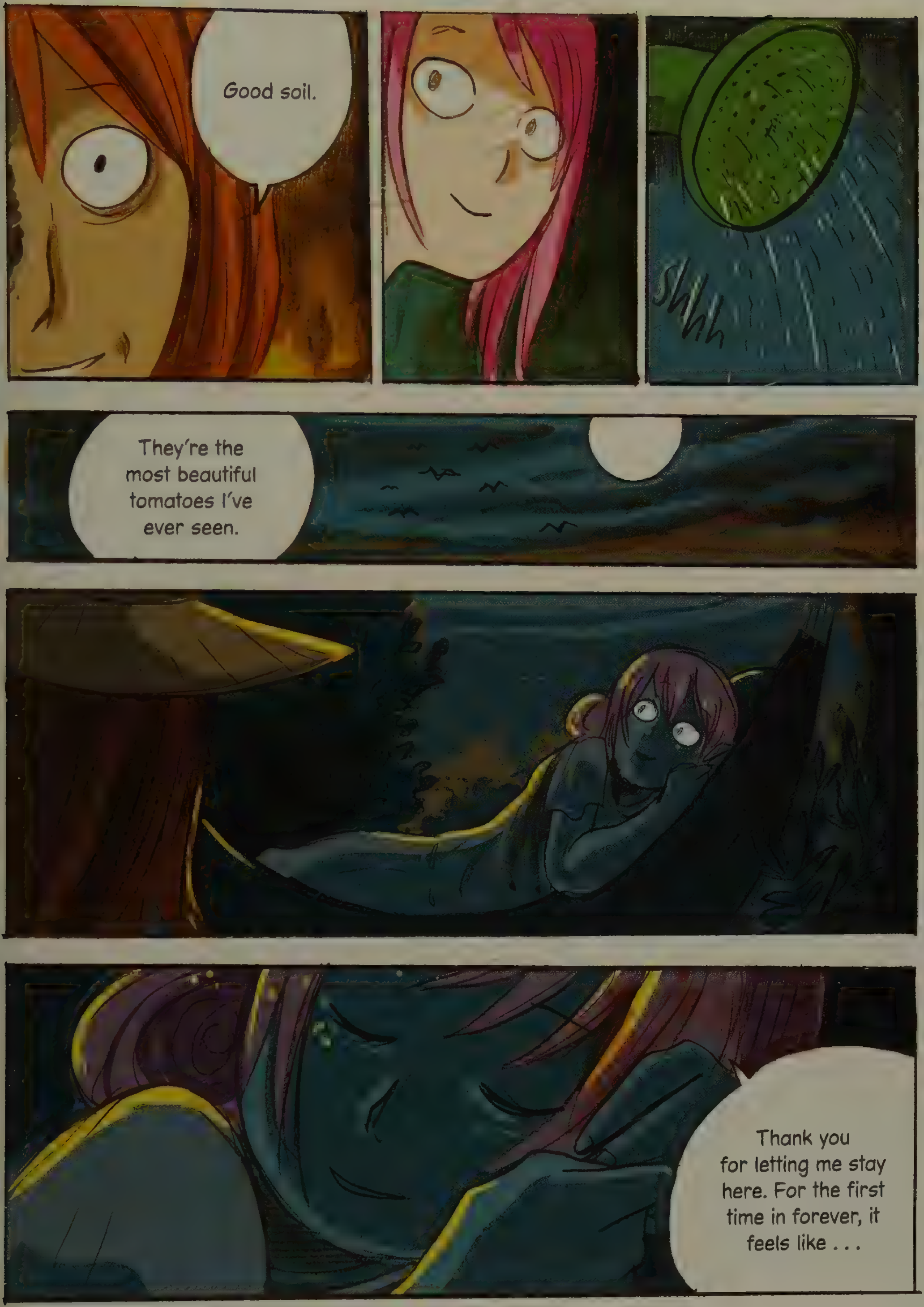


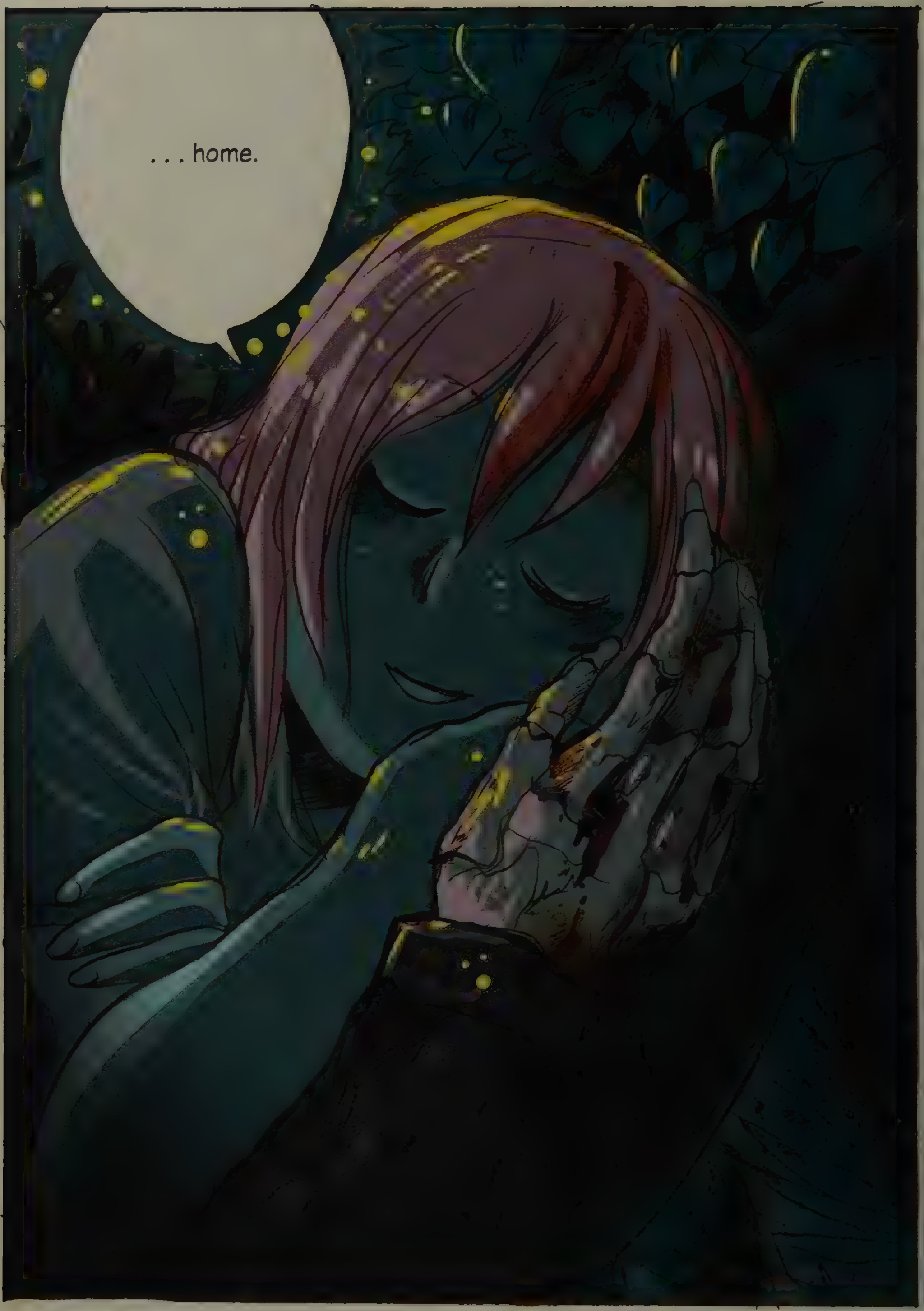

Aren't you all looking lovely!
What can I do for you today?
Shall I water you?

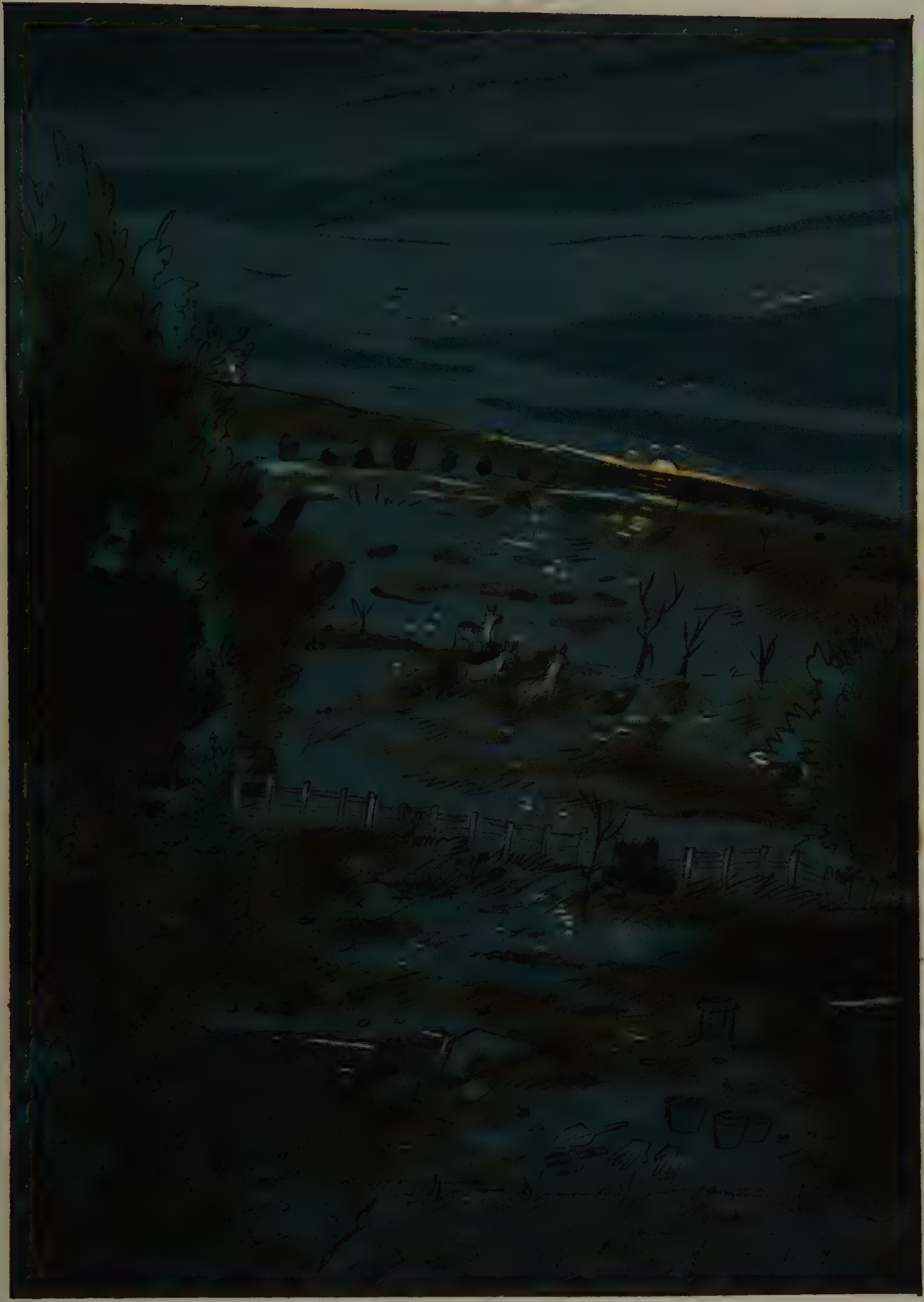

Here! Me, me!
Me! Please?
Here!
Here!
Me! Me!!
Over here! Please, me!
Me! Me!!
Here! Do me!
Ha! Don't get pushy!
You'll all get your chance!

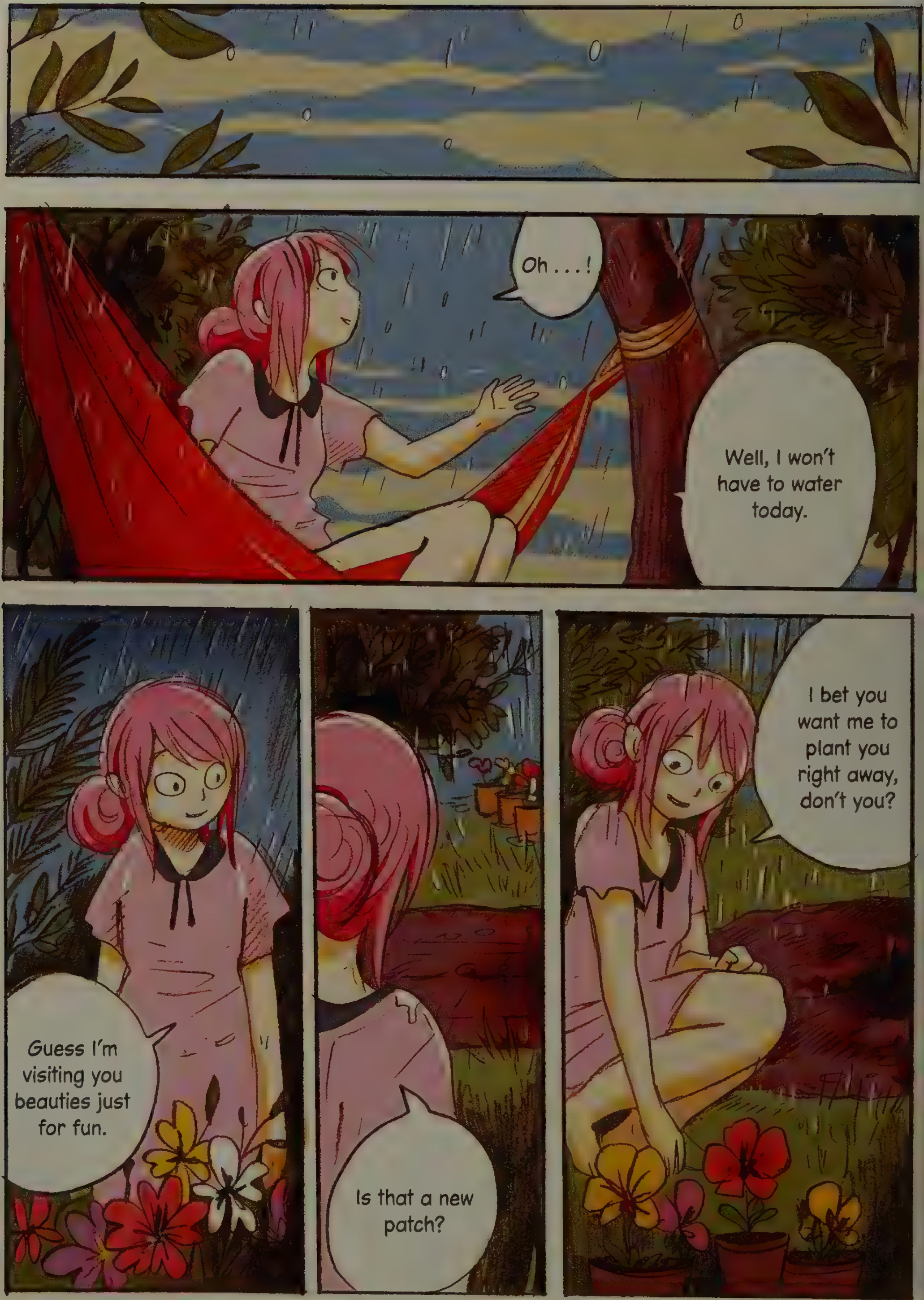

Haha!
Haha!
You too! Sure thing.
You're welcome!
I'm still surprised that a specimen like you has stayed alive.
I thought only the weeds had survived.
I like watching you.
You can stay longer if you like.

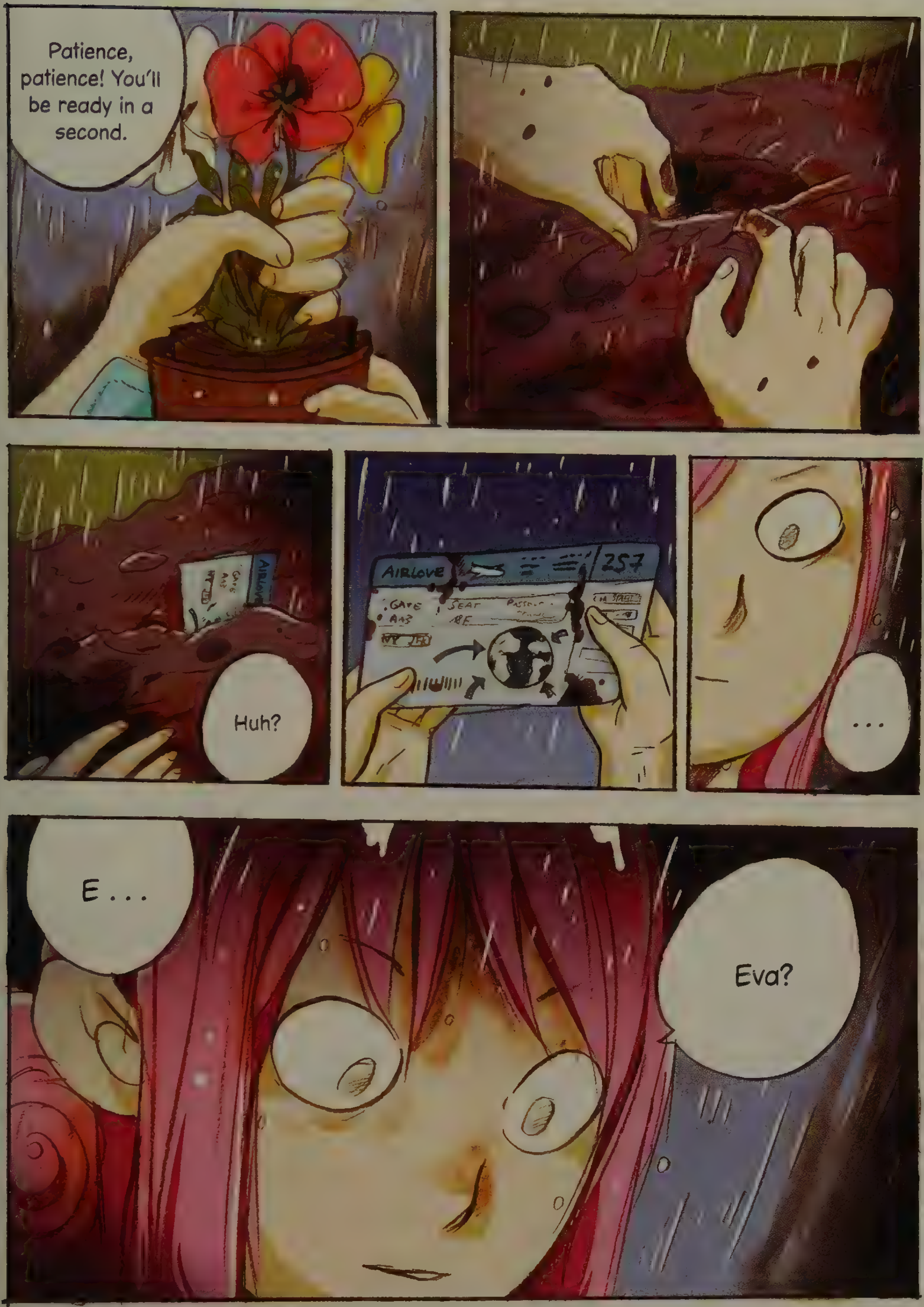

Shhhh
Bop
Kzz
...
You must be wondering why the tomatoes are thriving.

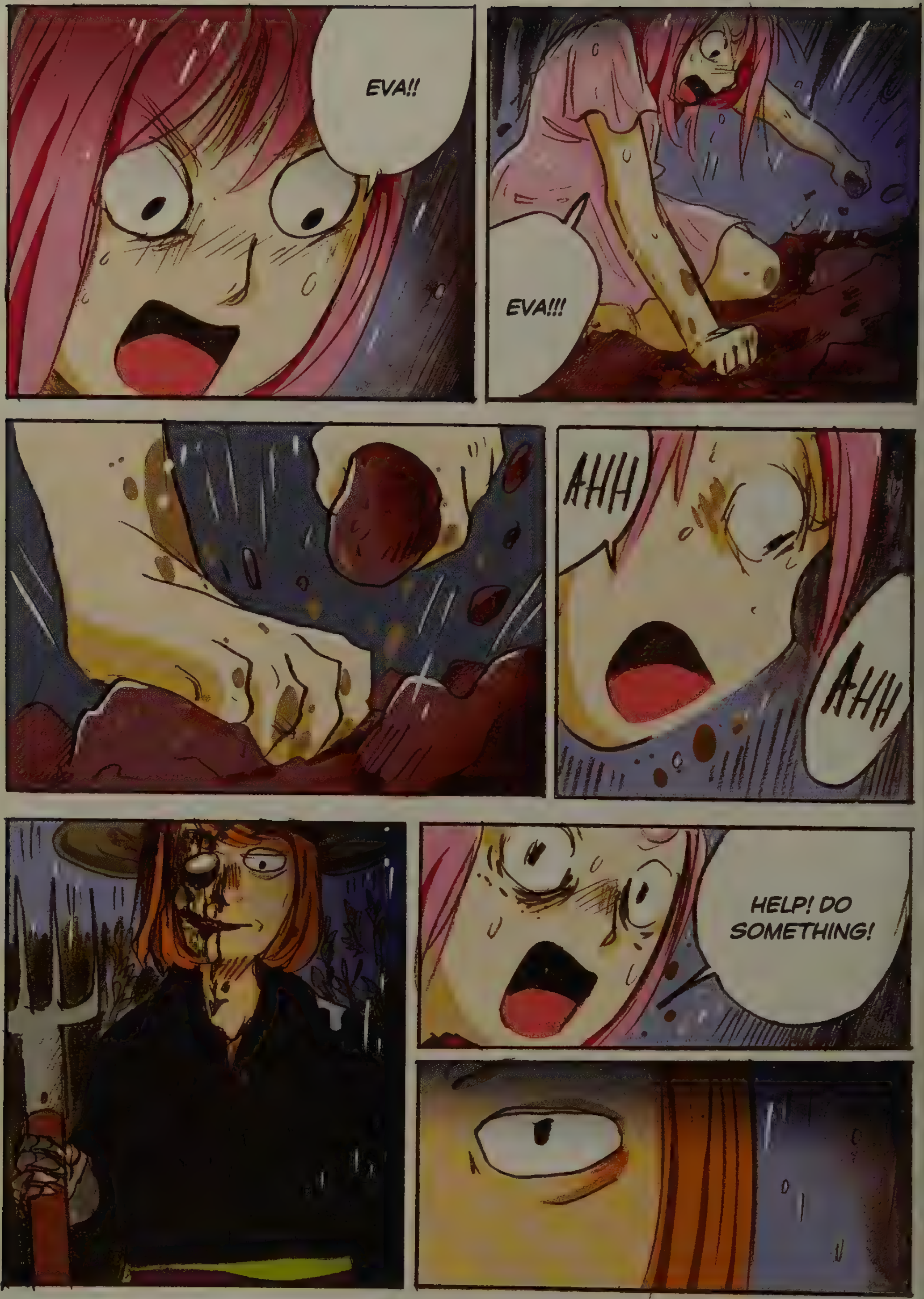

Good soil.
Shhh
They're the most beautiful tomatoes I've ever seen.
Thank you for letting me stay here. For the first time in forever, it feels like . . .

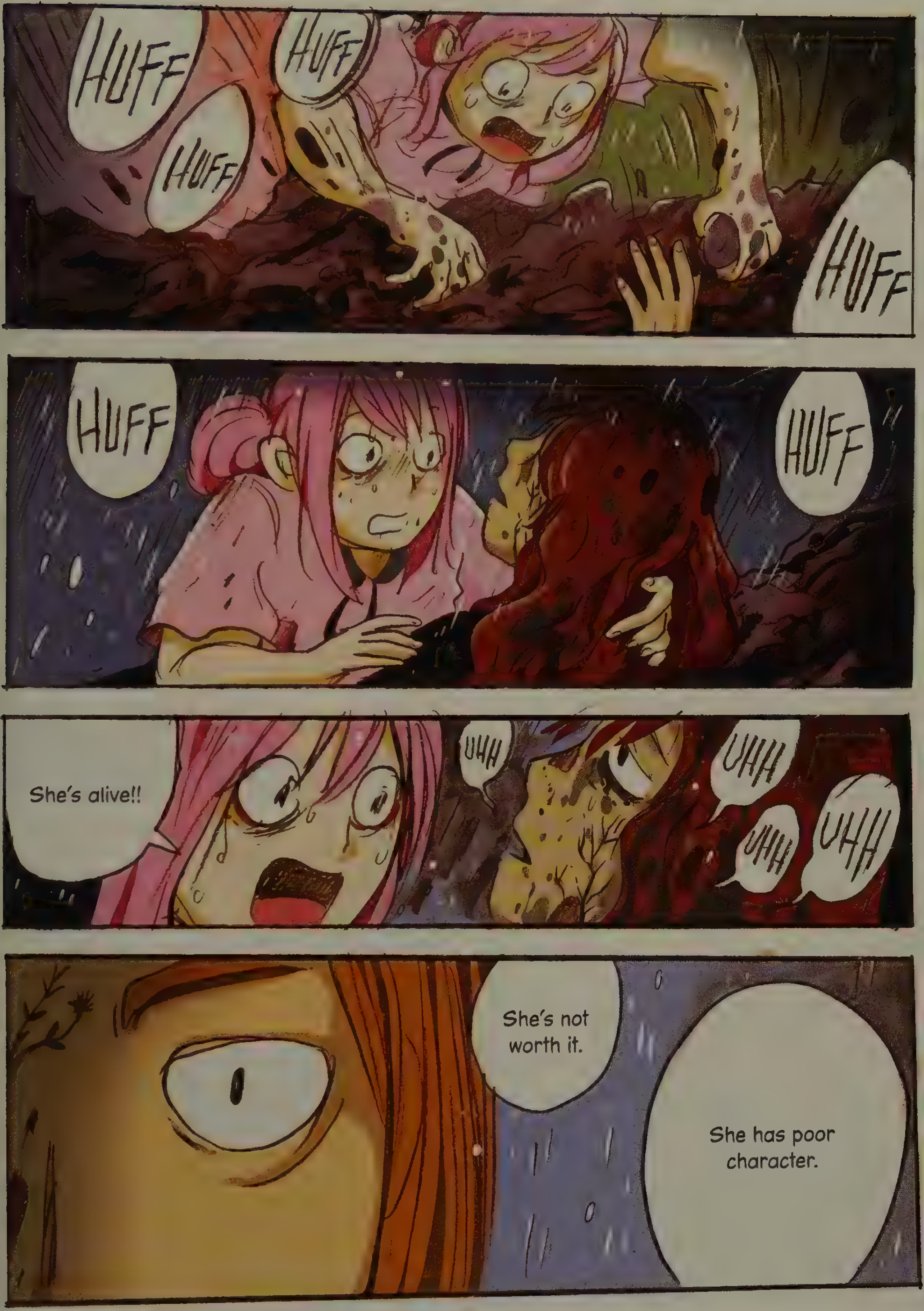

. . . home.

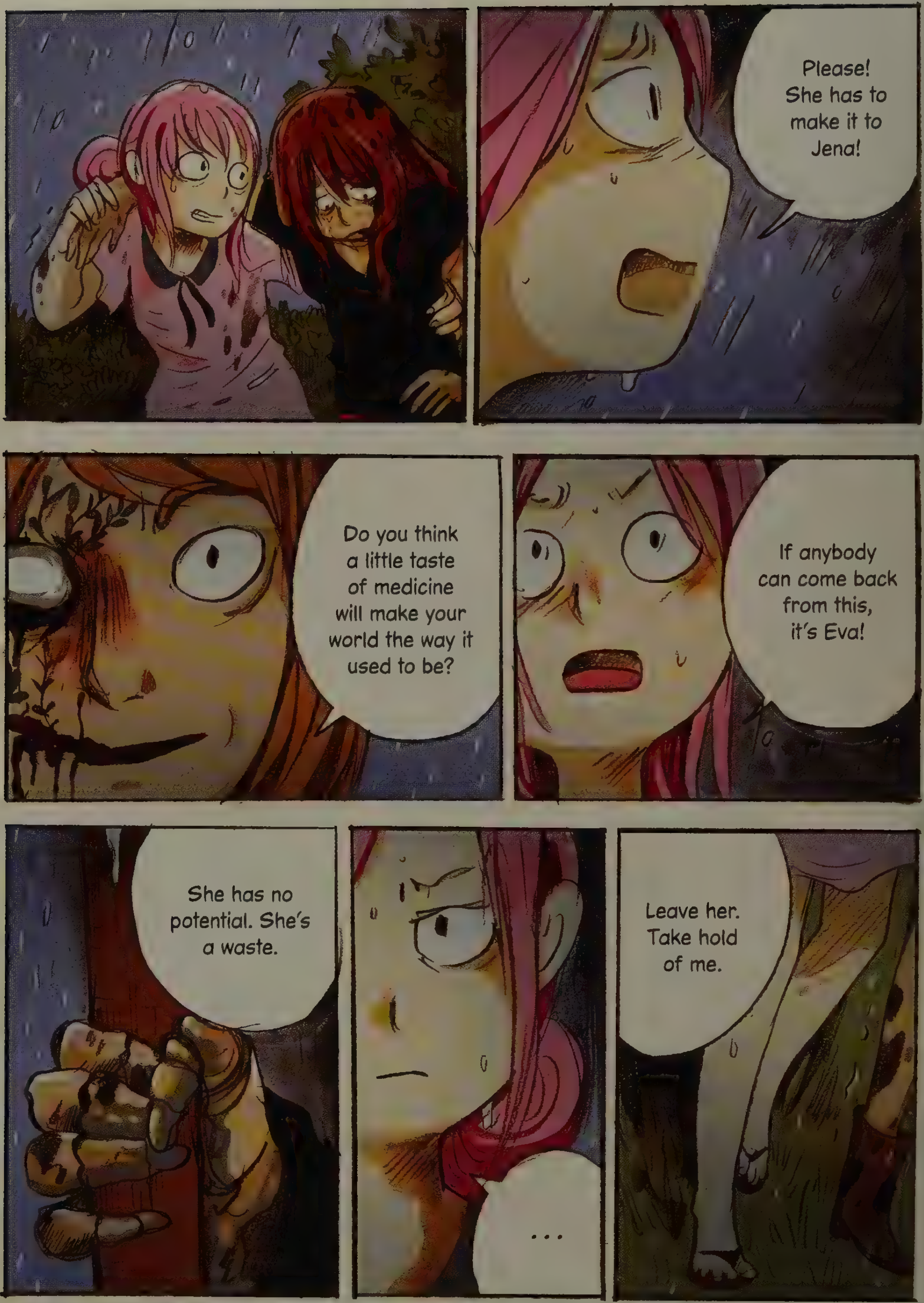


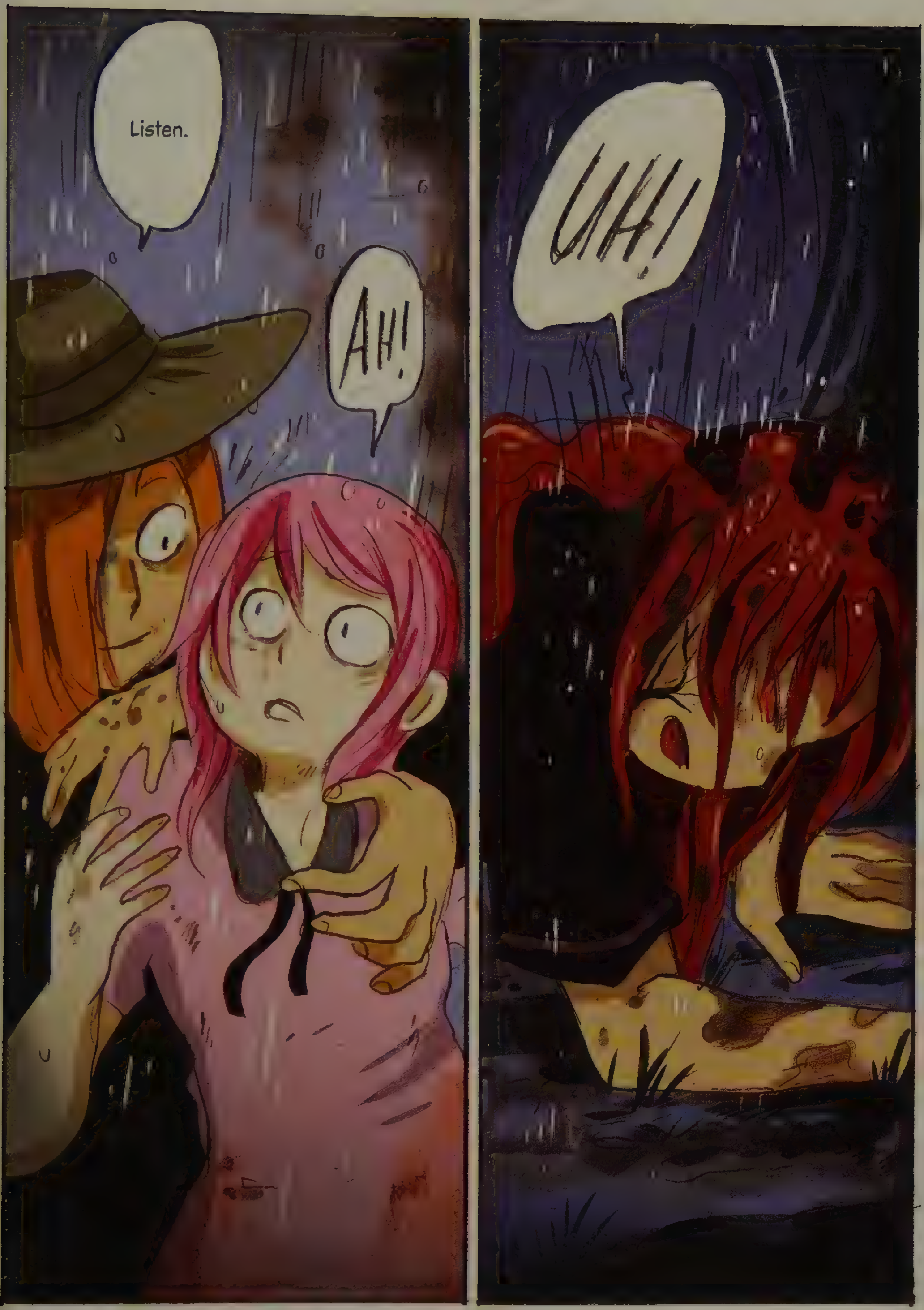

Oh . . . !
Well, I won't have to water today.
Guess I'm visiting you beauties just for fun.
Is that a new patch?
I bet you want me to plant you right away, don't you?

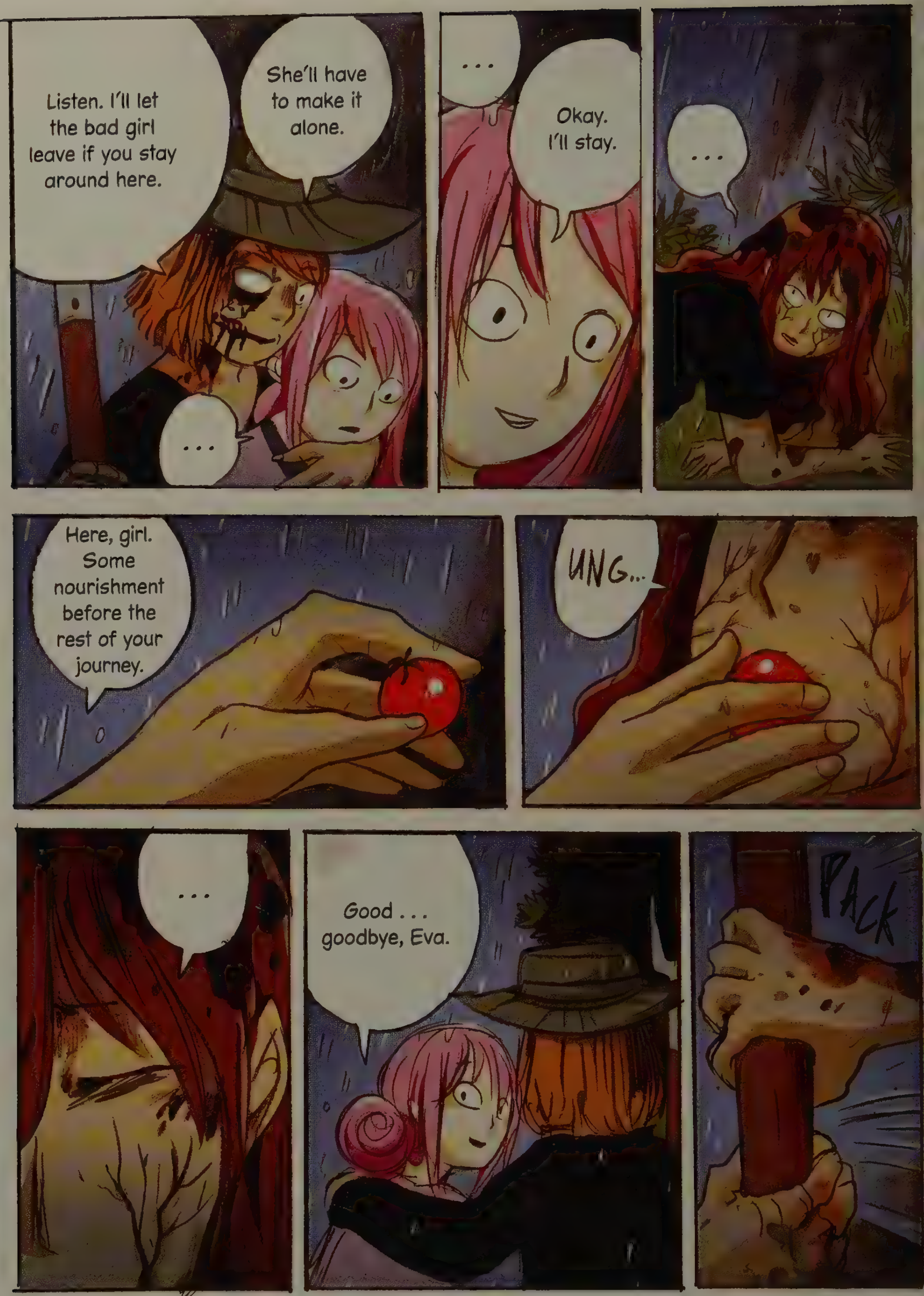

Patience, patience! You'll be ready in a second.
Huh?
AIRLOVE
257
GATE
SEAT
...
E . . .
Eva?

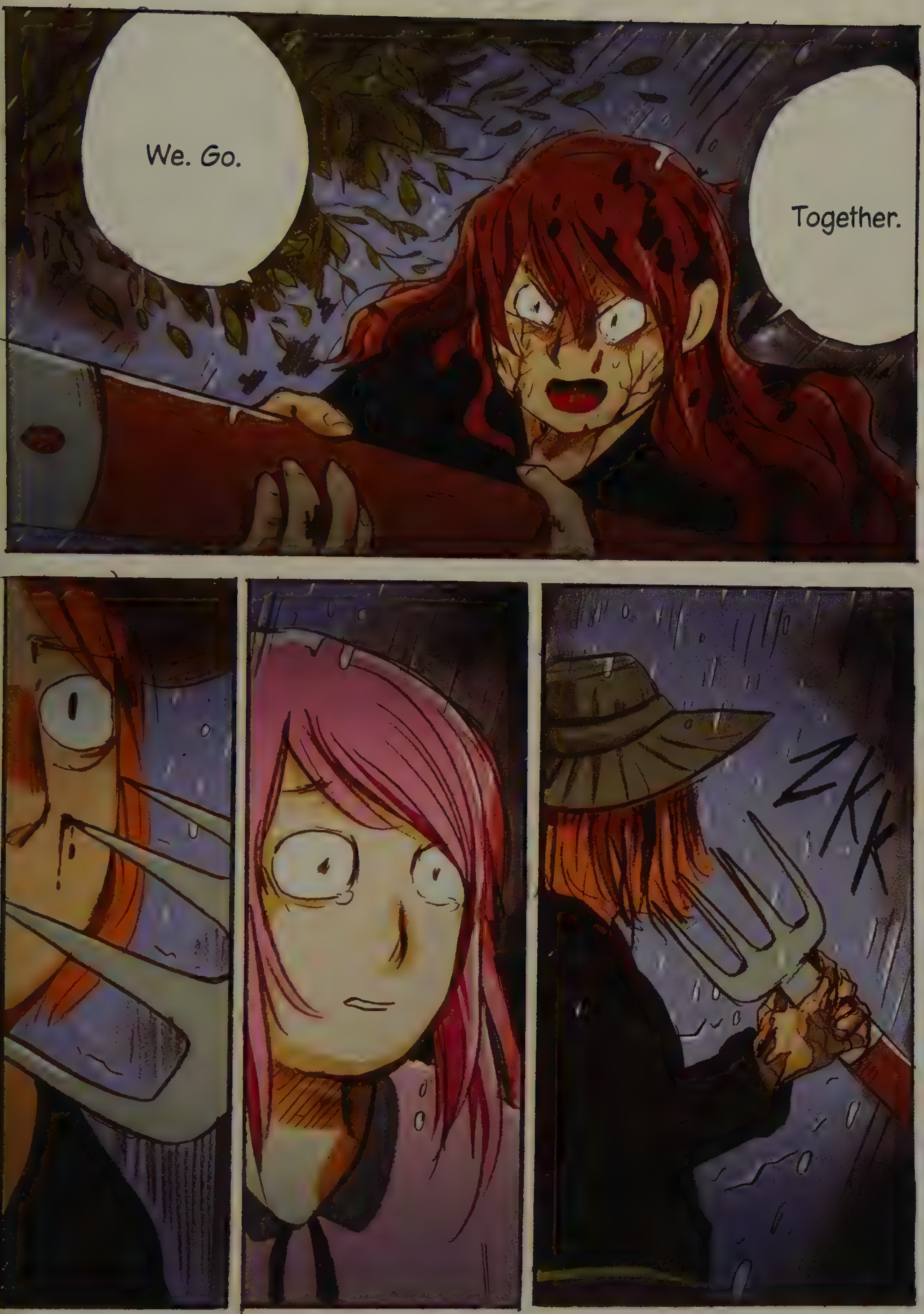

EVA!!
EVA!!!
AHH
AHH
HELP! DO SOMETHING!

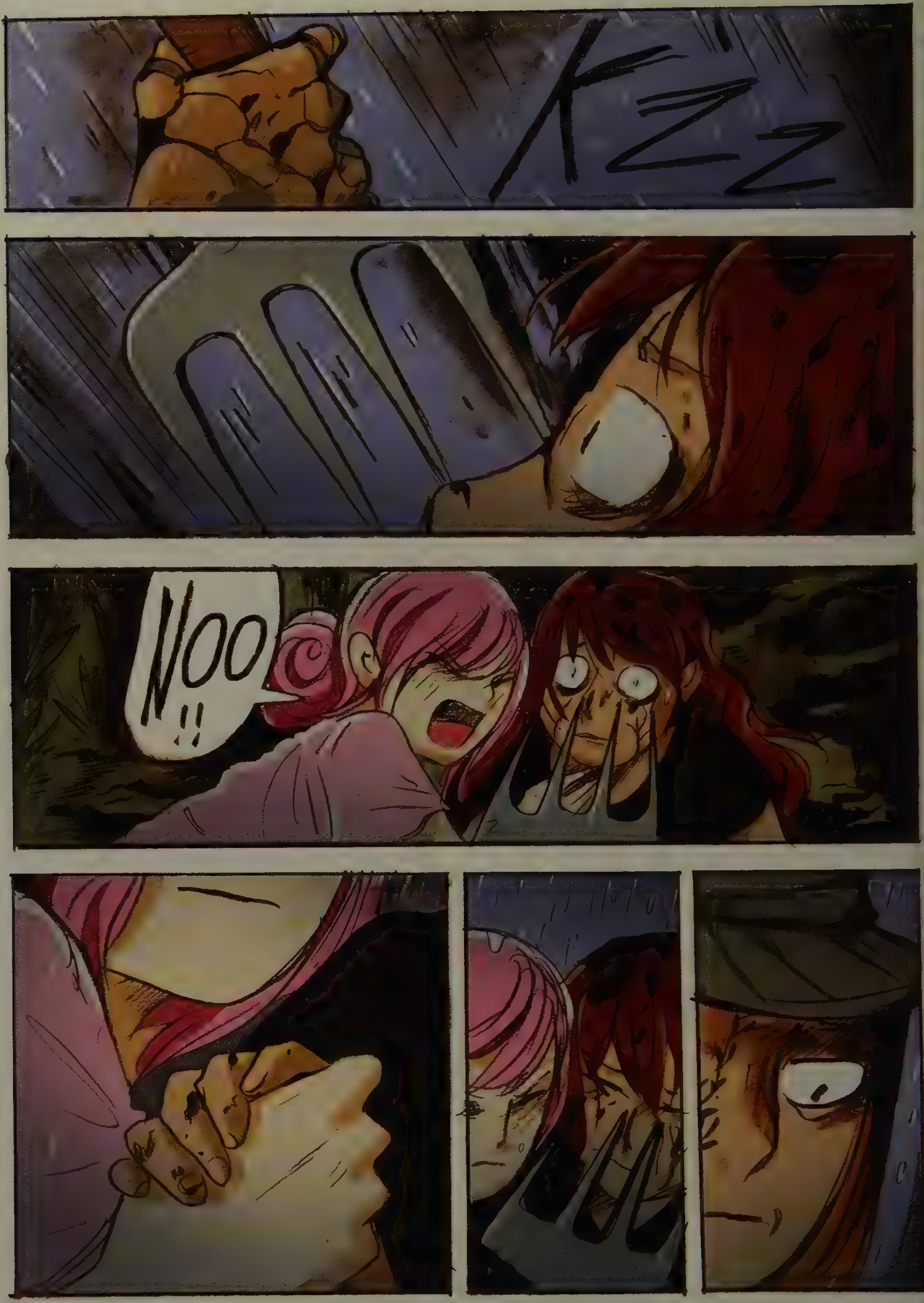

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
She's alive!!
UHH
UHH
UHH
UHH
She's not worth it.
She has poor character.

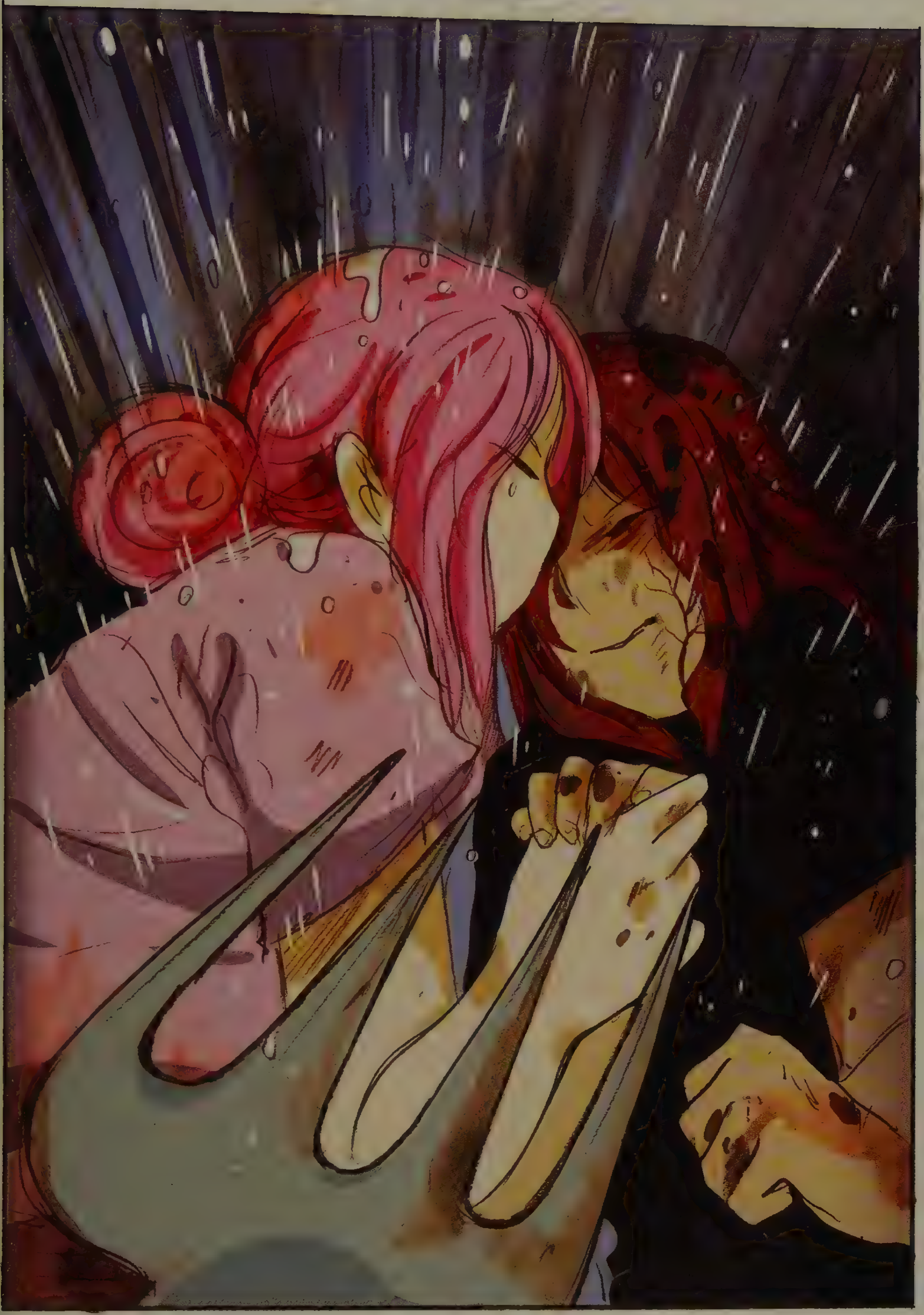

Please! She has to make it to Jena!
Do you think a little taste of medicine will make your world the way it used to be?
If anybody can come back from this, it's Eva!
She has no potential. She's a waste.
...
Leave her. Take hold of me.

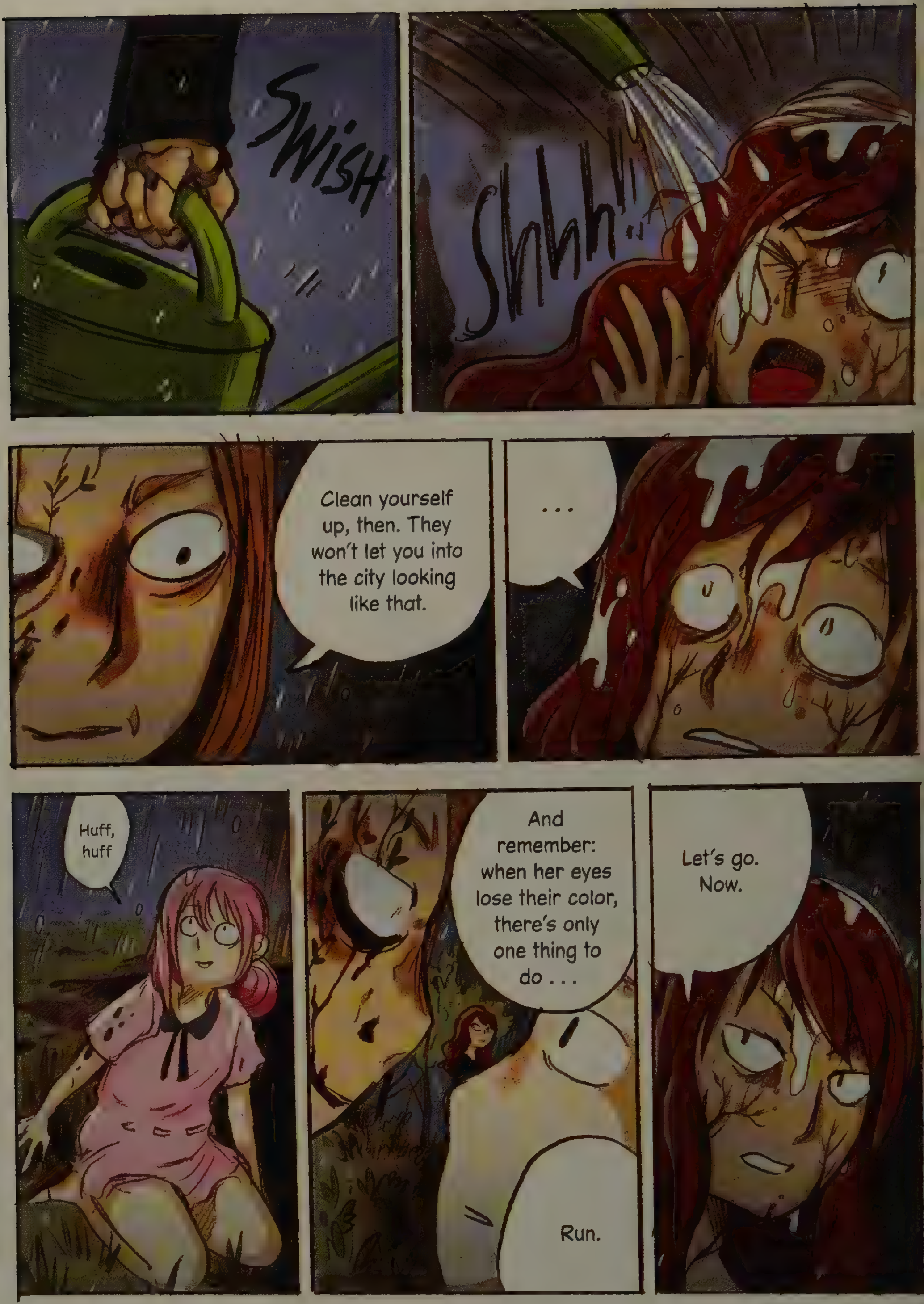

Listen.
AH!
UH!

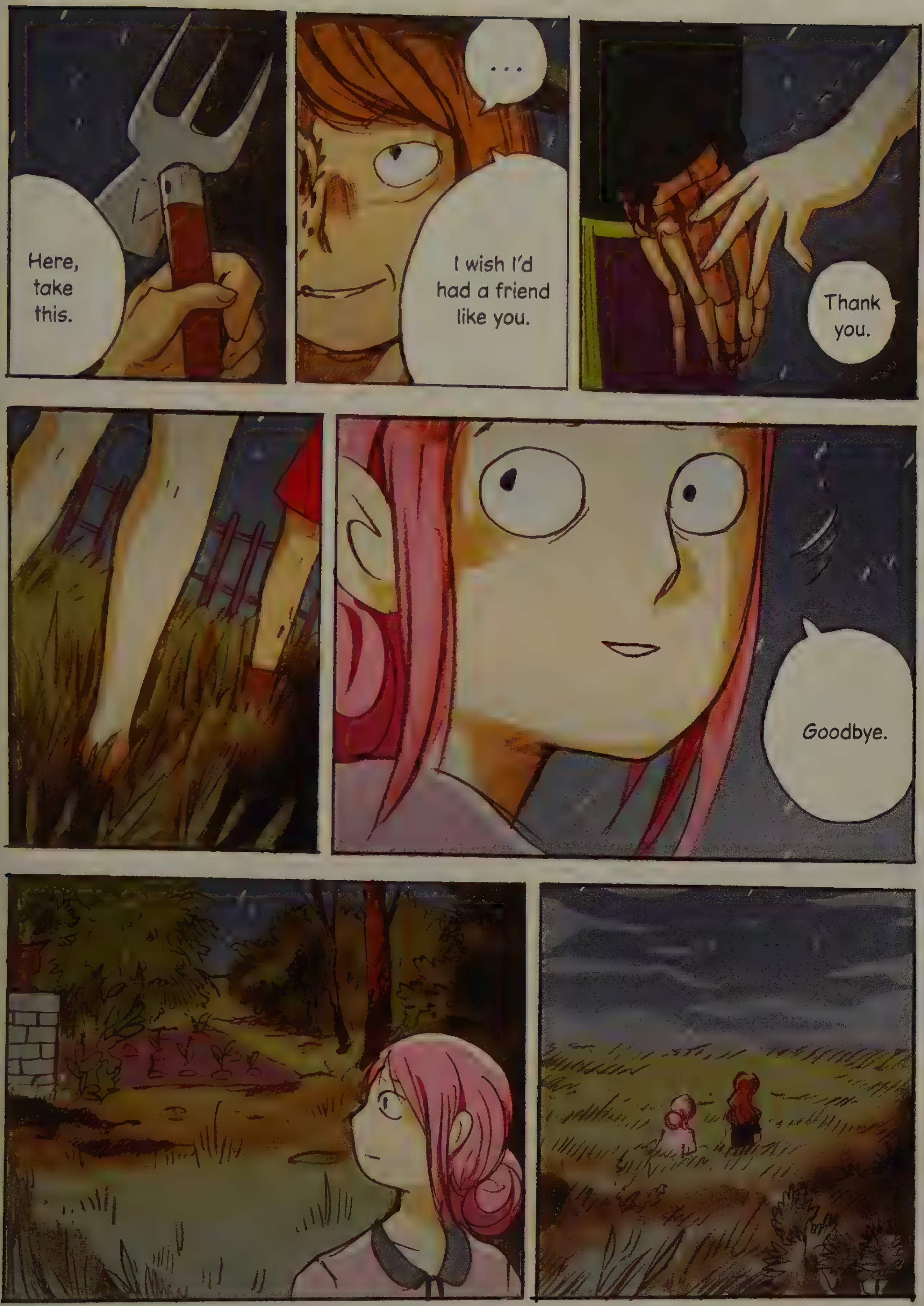

Listen. I'll let the bad girl leave if you stay around here.
She'll have to make it alone.
. . .
. . .
Okay. I'll stay.
. . .
Here, girl. Some nourishment before the rest of your journey.
UNG...
. . .
Good . . . goodbye, Eva.
PACK

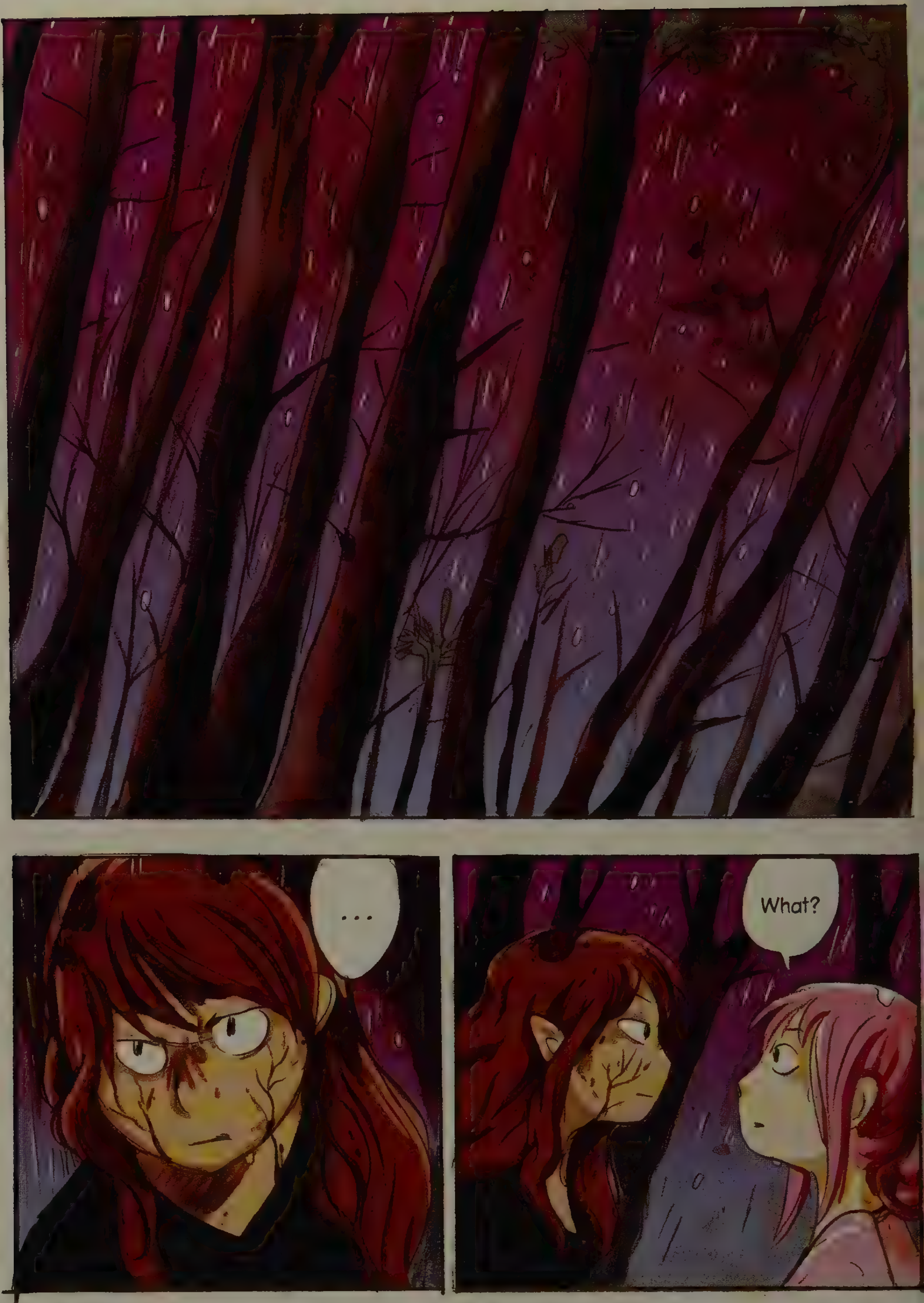

We. Go.
Together.
ZKK

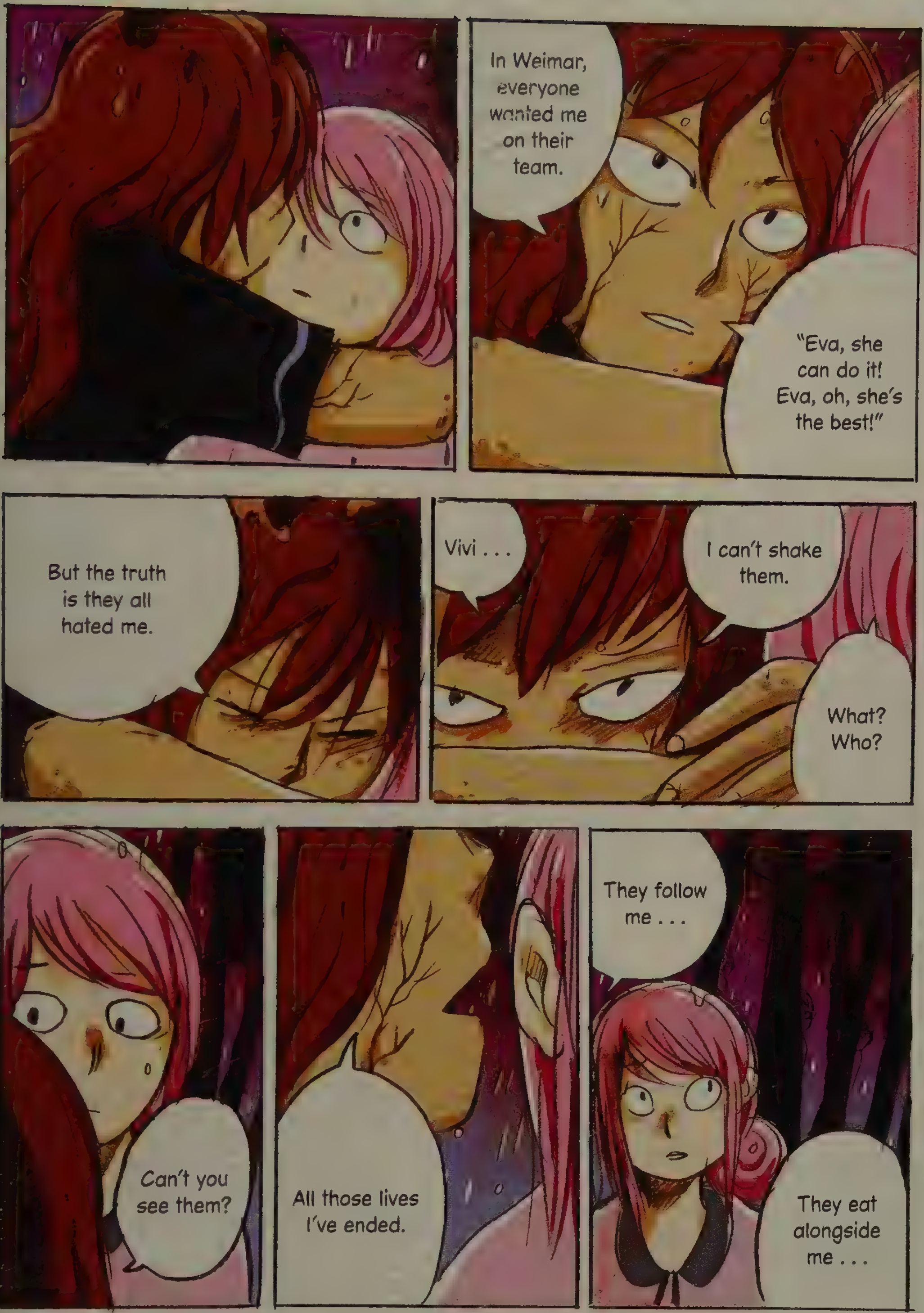

KZZ
NOO!!

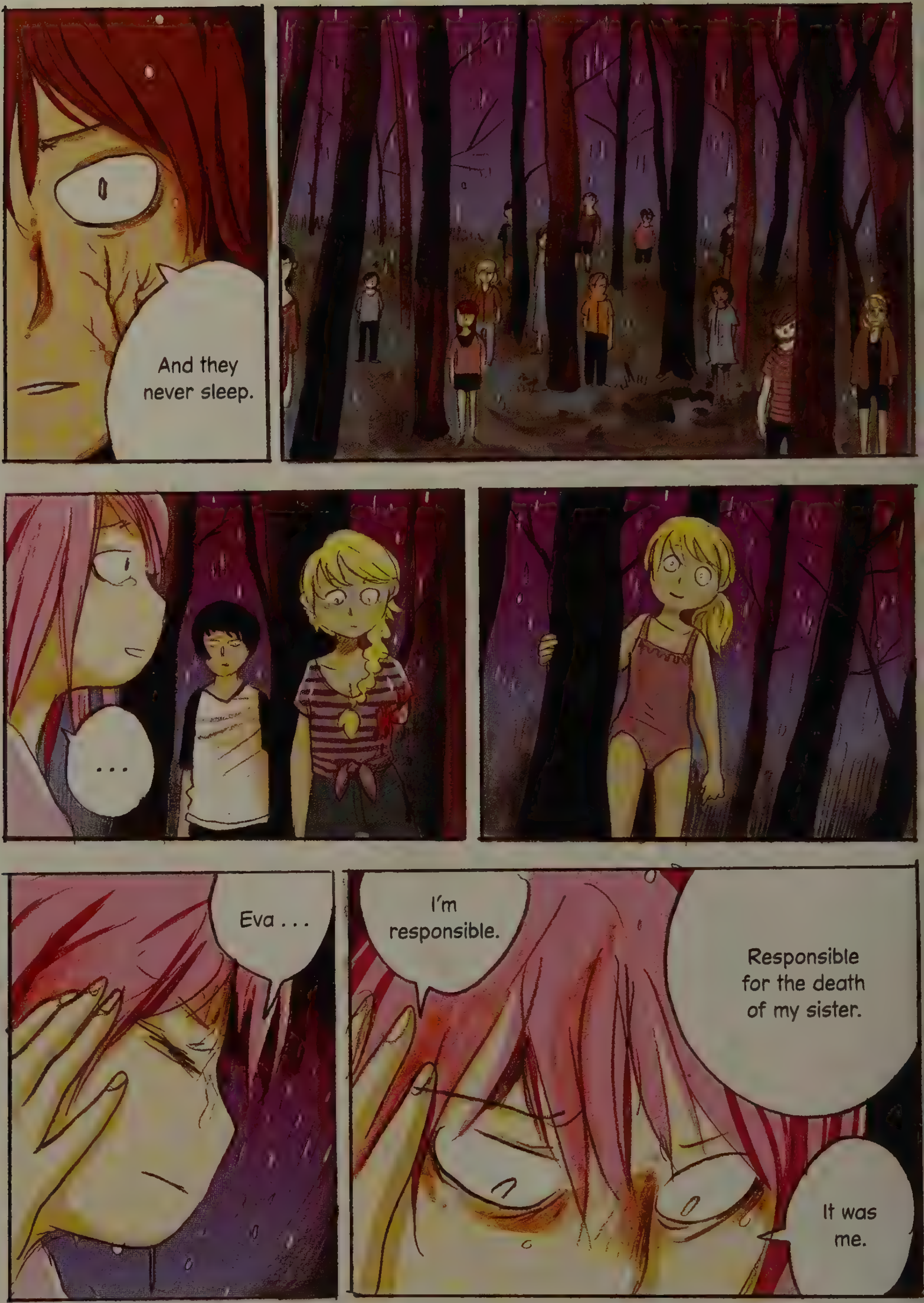


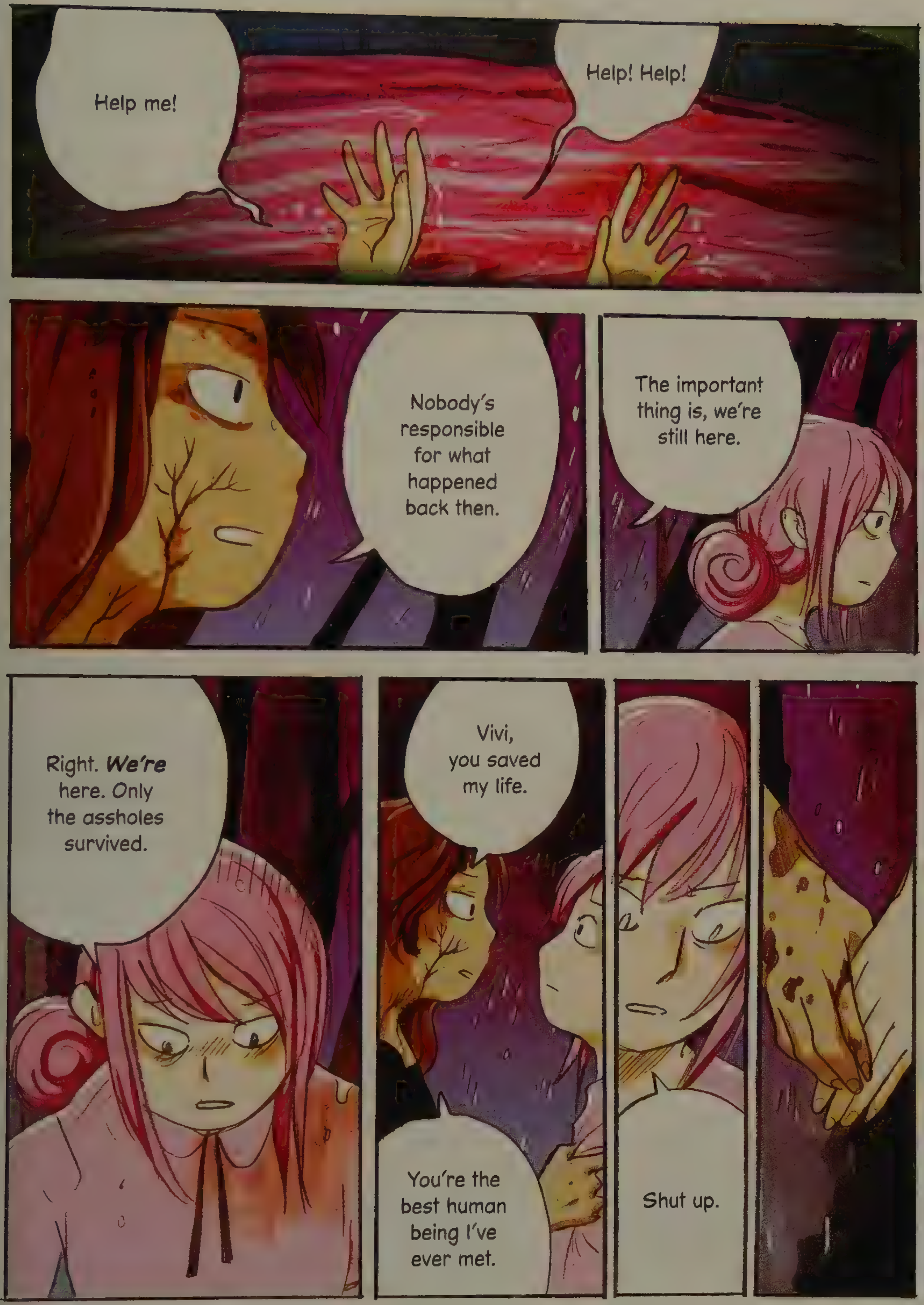

SWISH
Shhh!!
Clean yourself up, then. They won't let you into the city looking like that.
. . .
Huff, huff
And remember: when her eyes lose their color, there's only one thing to do . . .
Run.
Let's go. Now.

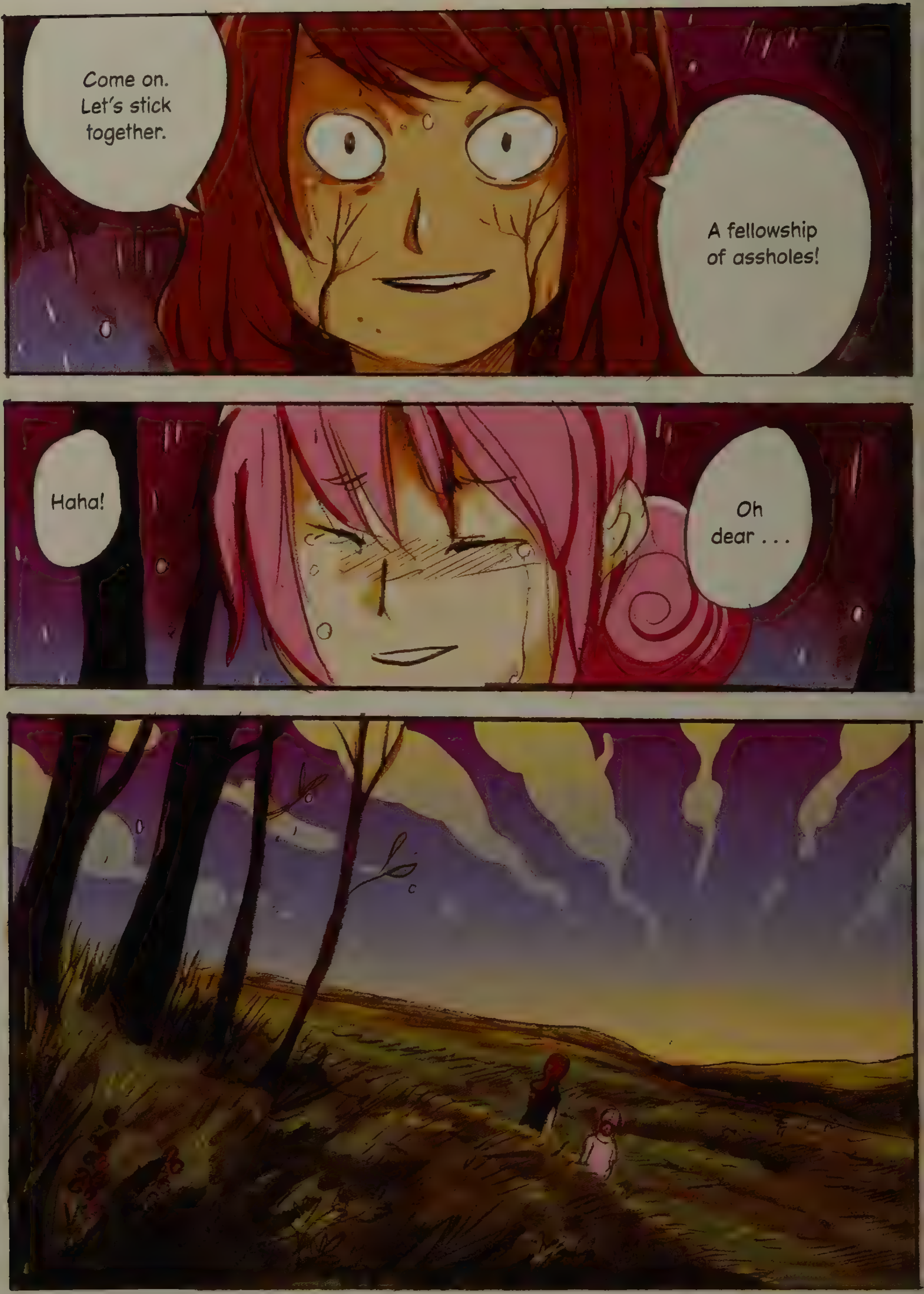

Here, take this.
. . .
I wish I'd had a friend like you.
Thank you.
Goodbye.

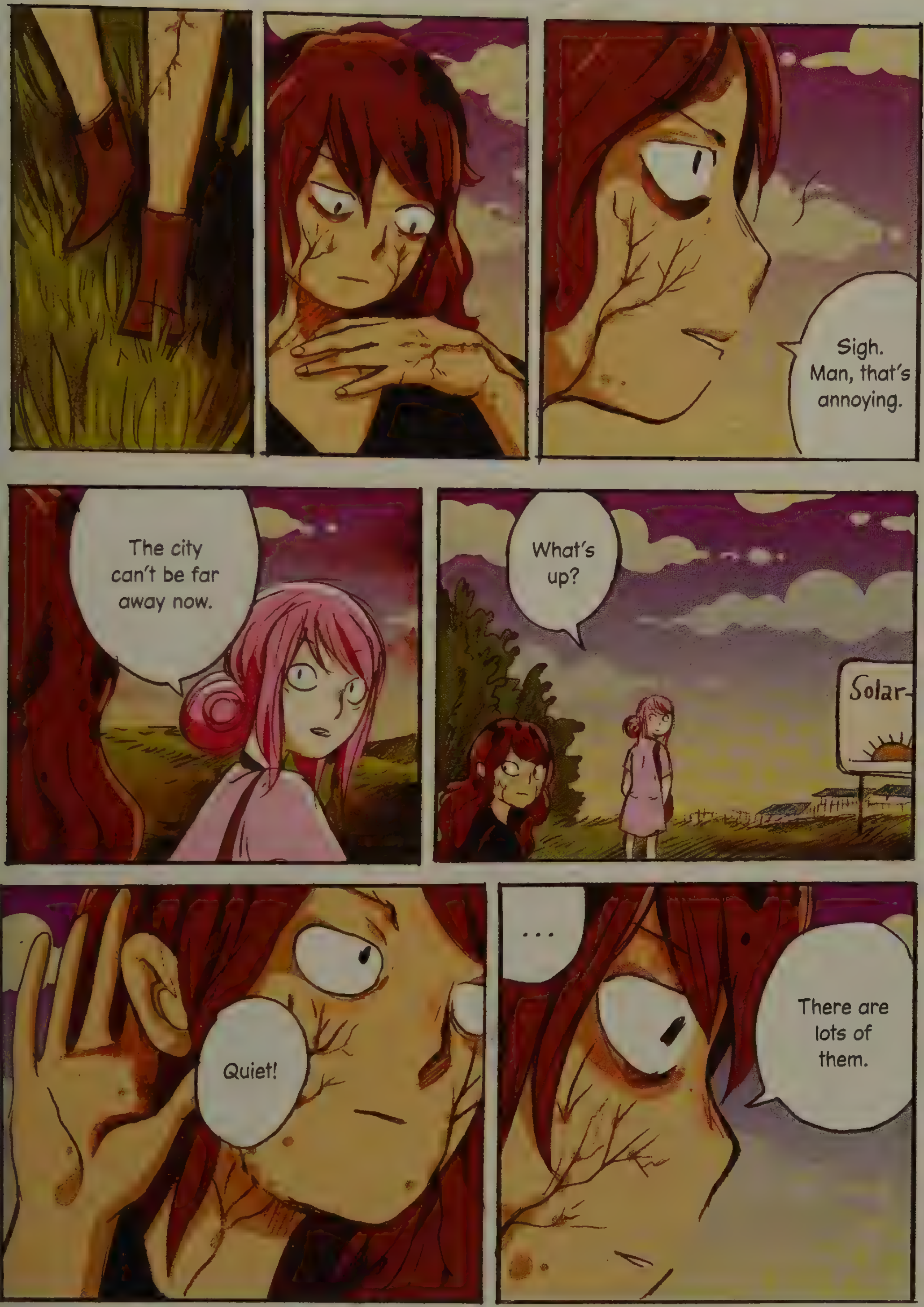

...
What?

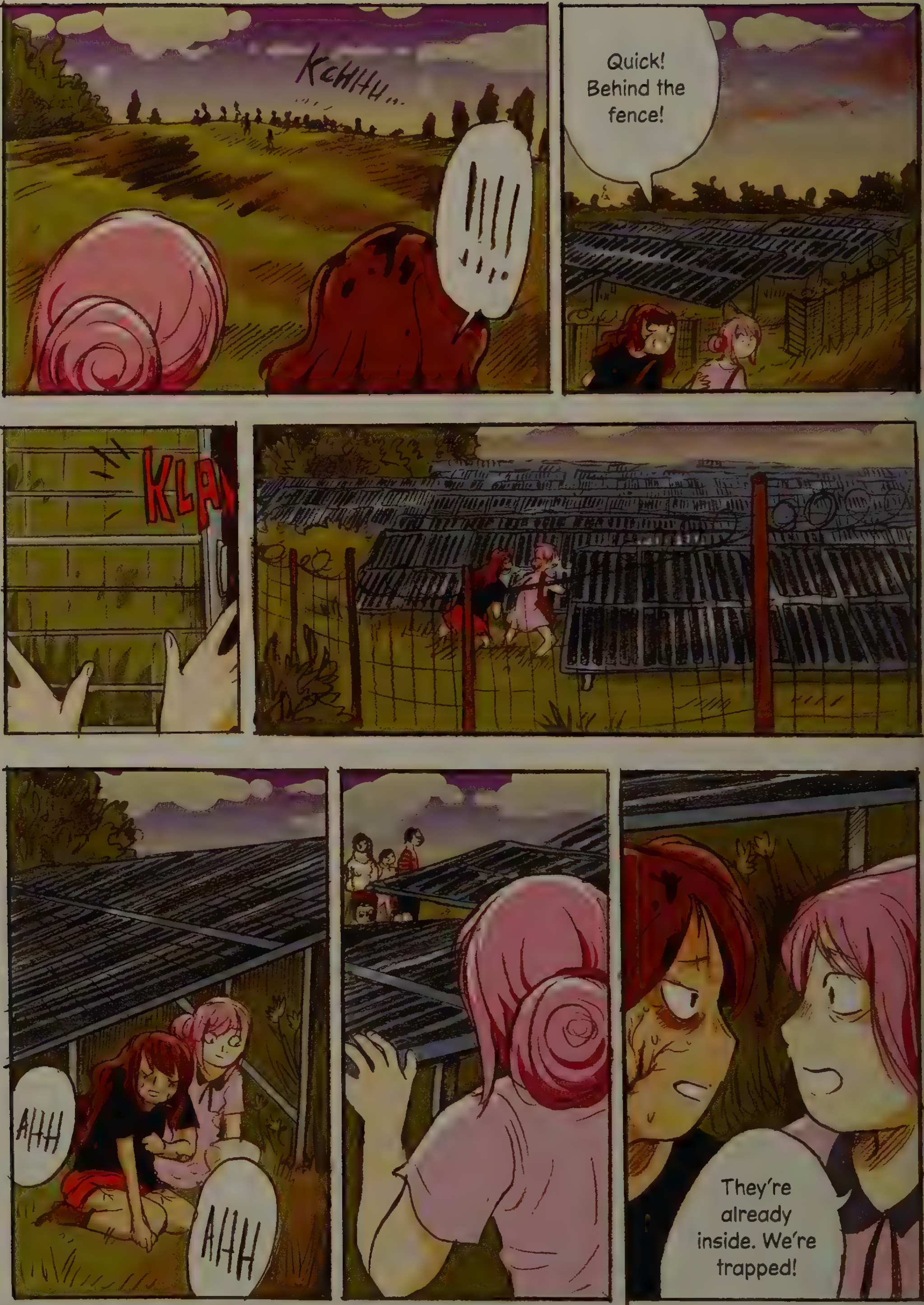

In Weimar, everyone wanted me on their team.
"Eva, she can do it! Eva, oh, she's the best!"
But the truth is they all hated me.
Vivi . . .
I can't shake them.
What? Who?
Can't you see them?
All those lives I've ended.
They follow me . . .
They eat alongside me . . .

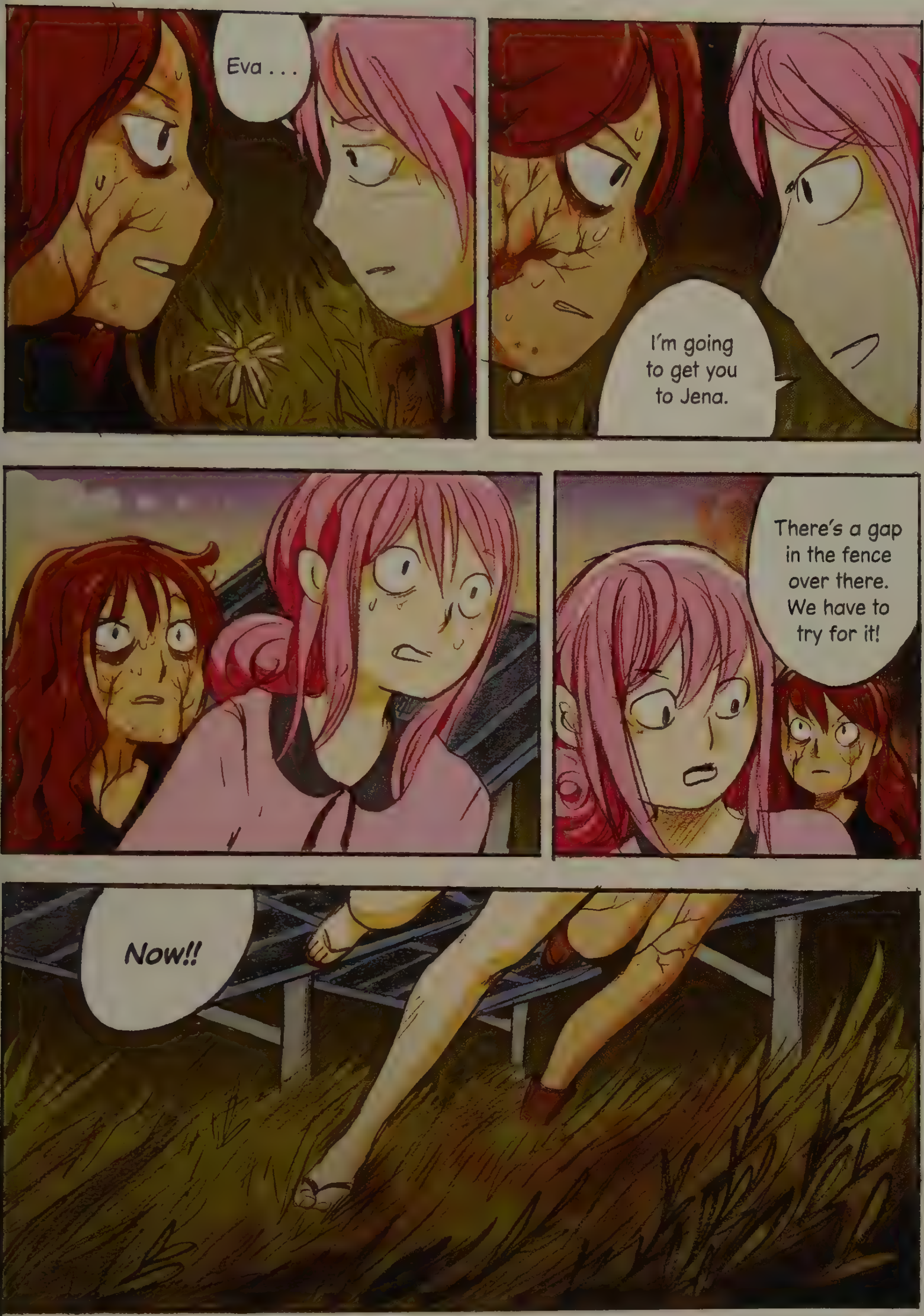

And they never sleep.
. . .
Eva . . .
I'm responsible.
Responsible for the death of my sister.
It was me.

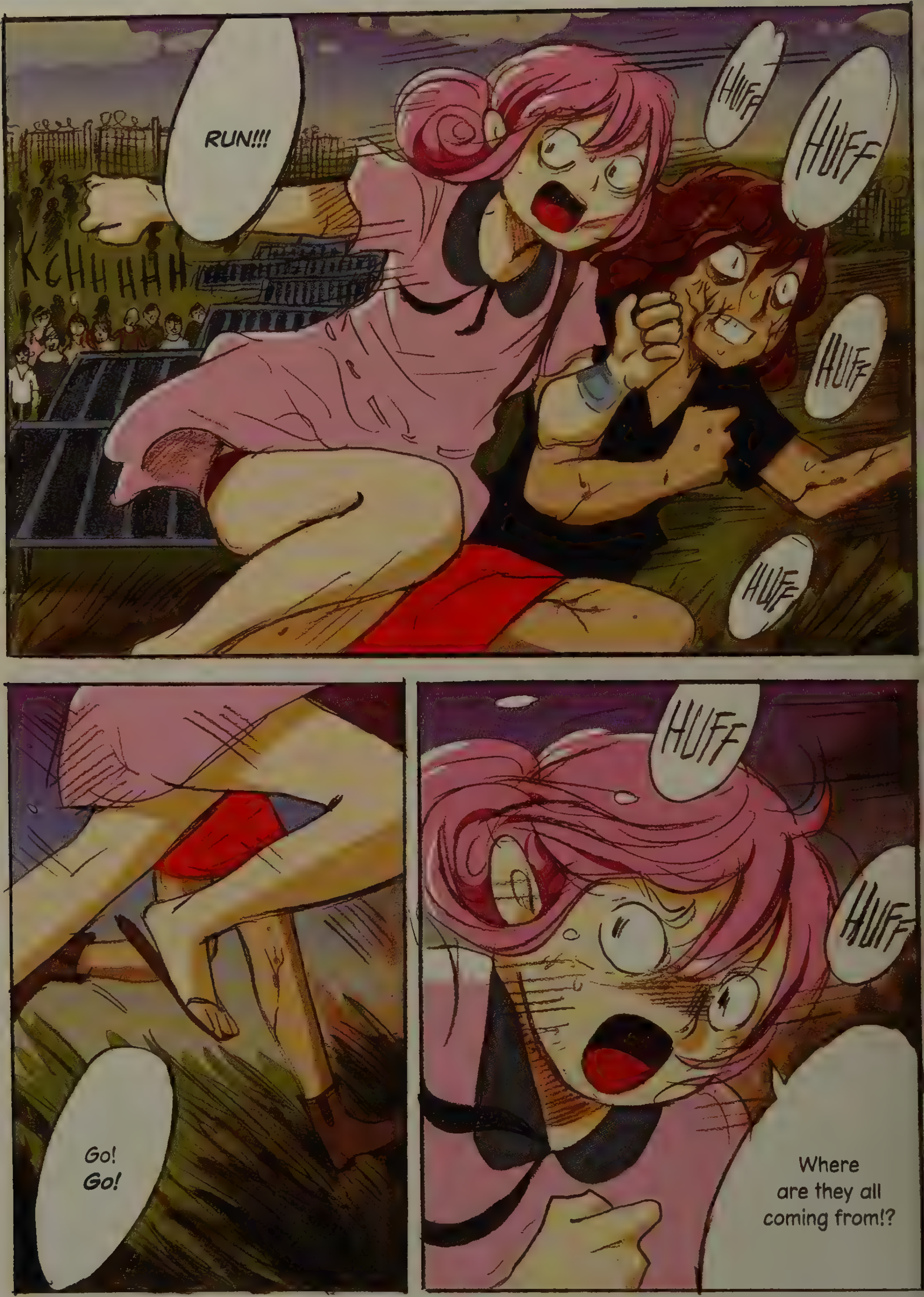

Help me!
Help! Help!
Nobody's responsible for what happened back then.
The important thing is, we're still here.
Right. *We're* here. Only the assholes survived.
Vivi, you saved my life.
You're the best human being I've ever met.
Shut up.

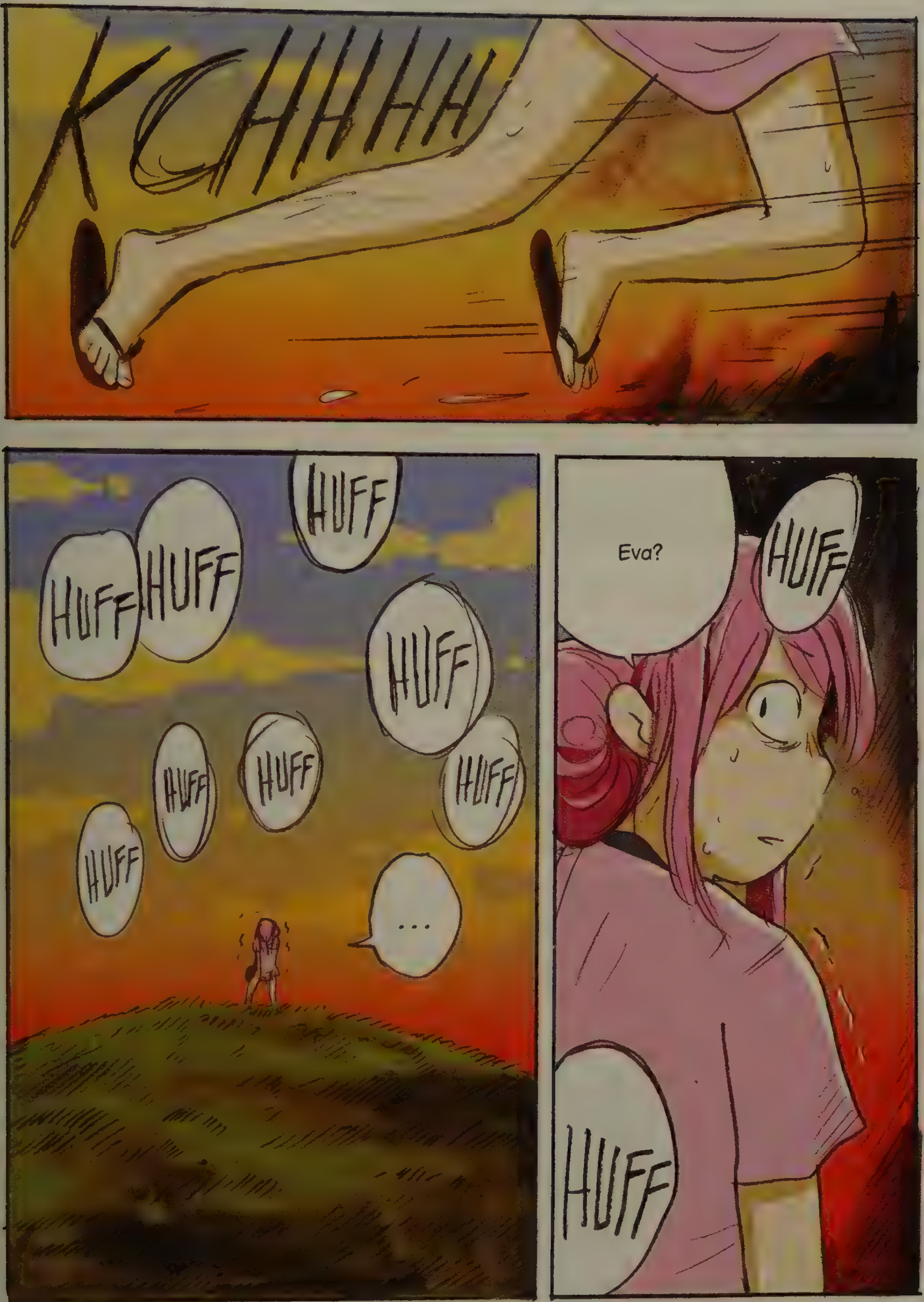

Come on. Let's stick together.
A fellowship of assholes!
Haha!
Oh dear . . .

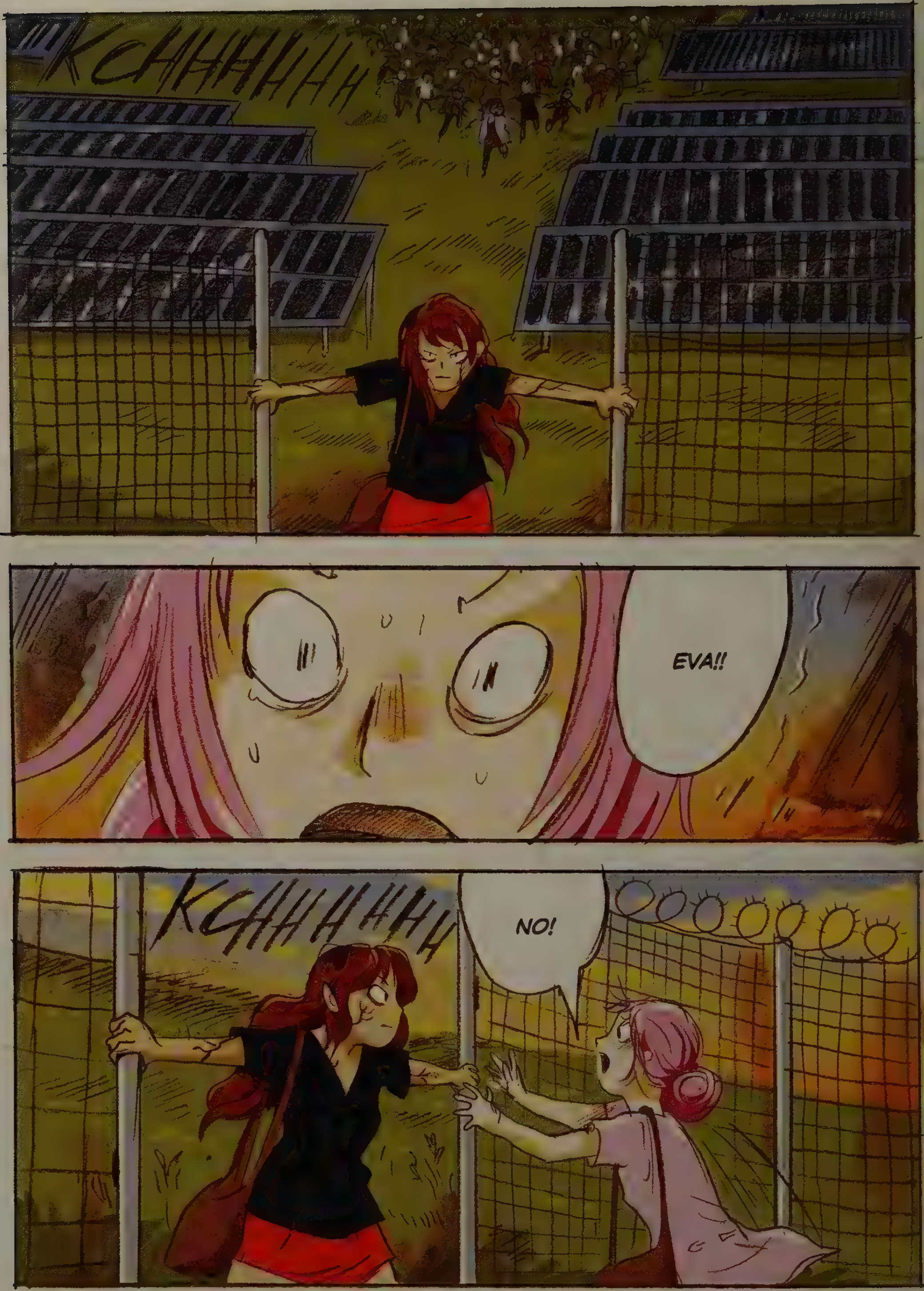

Sigh.
Man, that's annoying.
The city can't be far away now.
What's up?
Solar-
Quiet!
...
There are lots of them.

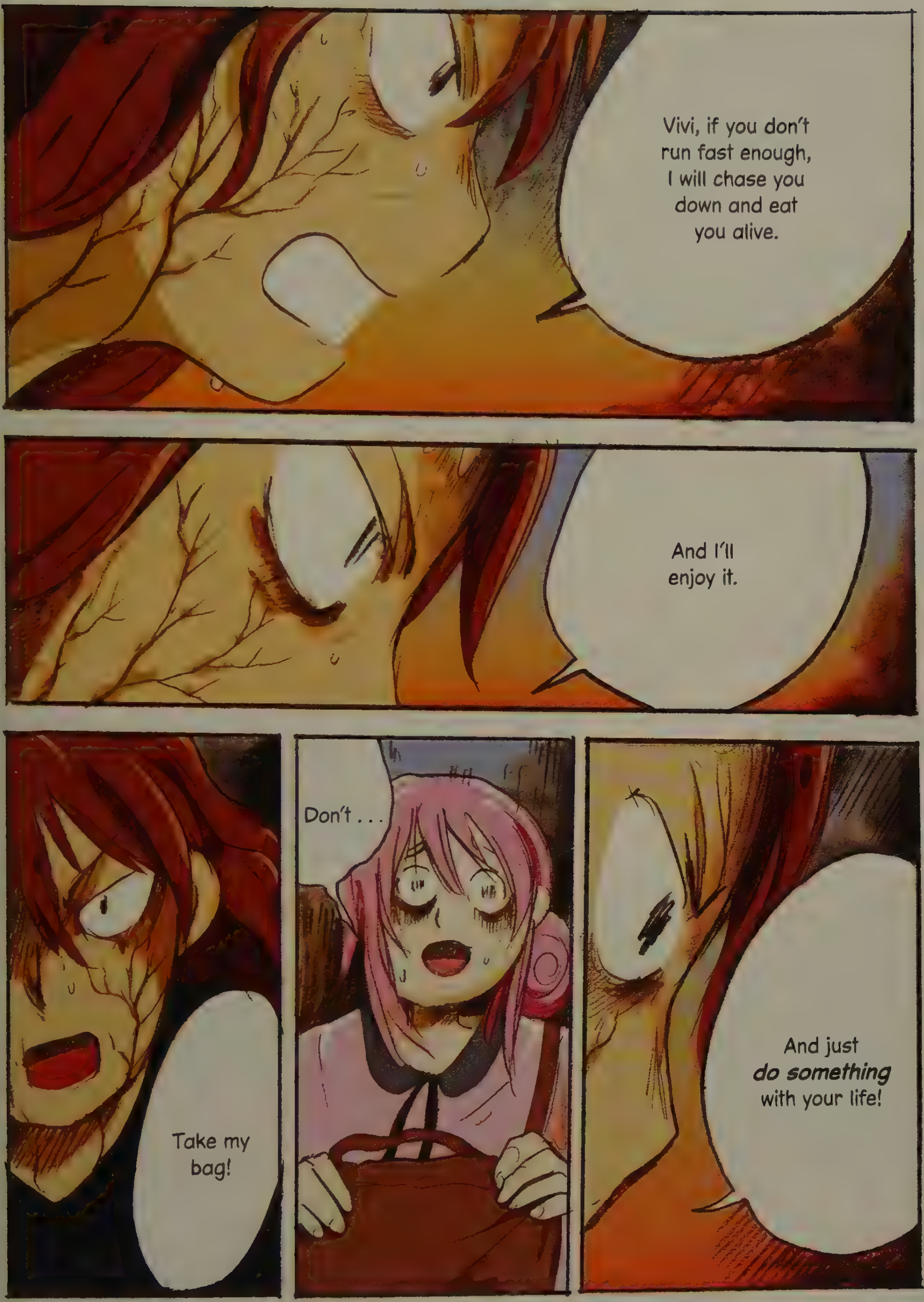

KCHHH...
!!!!
Quick! Behind the fence!
KLA
AHH
AHH
They're already inside. We're trapped!

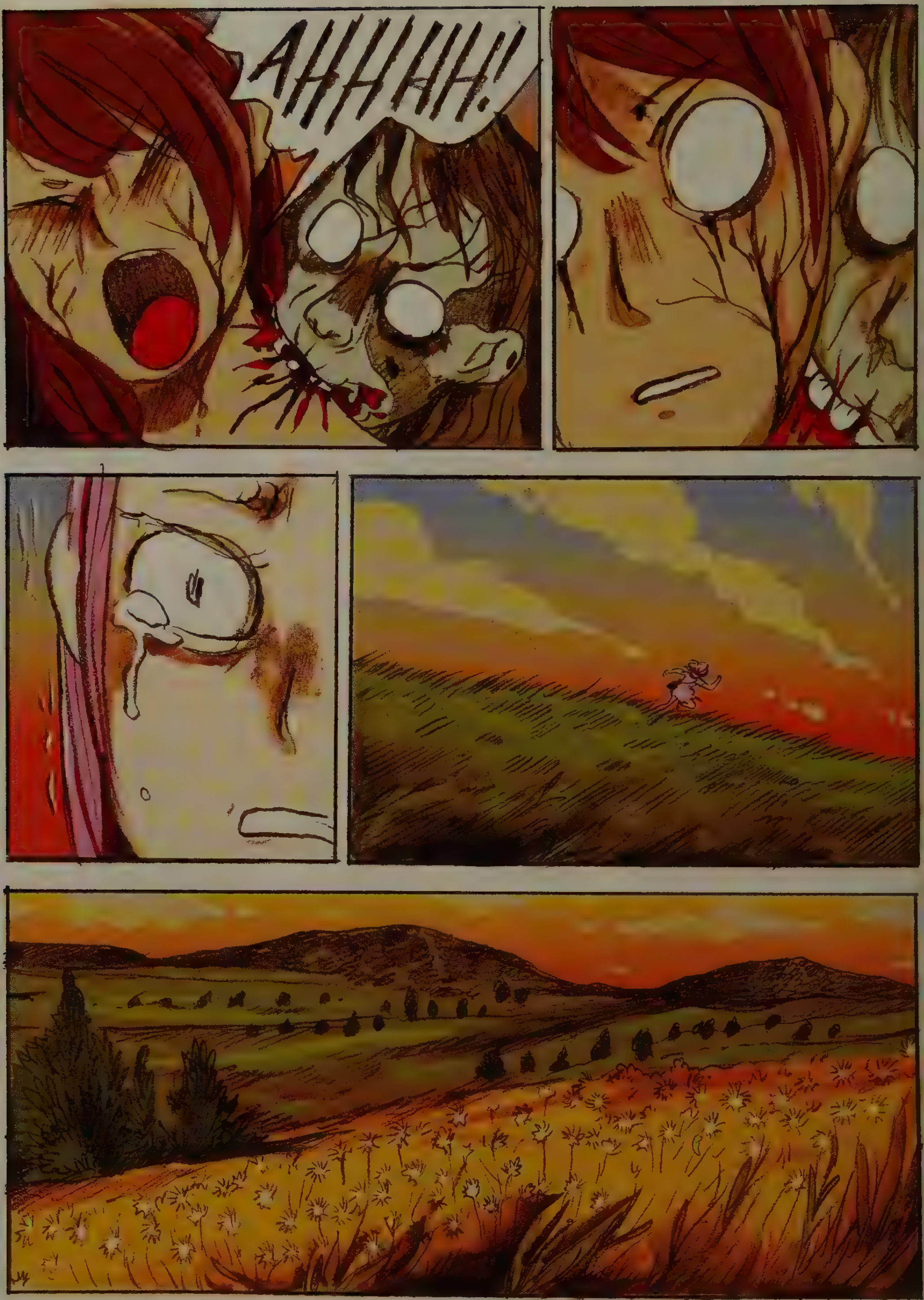

Eva . . .
I'm going to get you to Jena.
There's a gap in the fence over there. We have to try for it!
Now!!

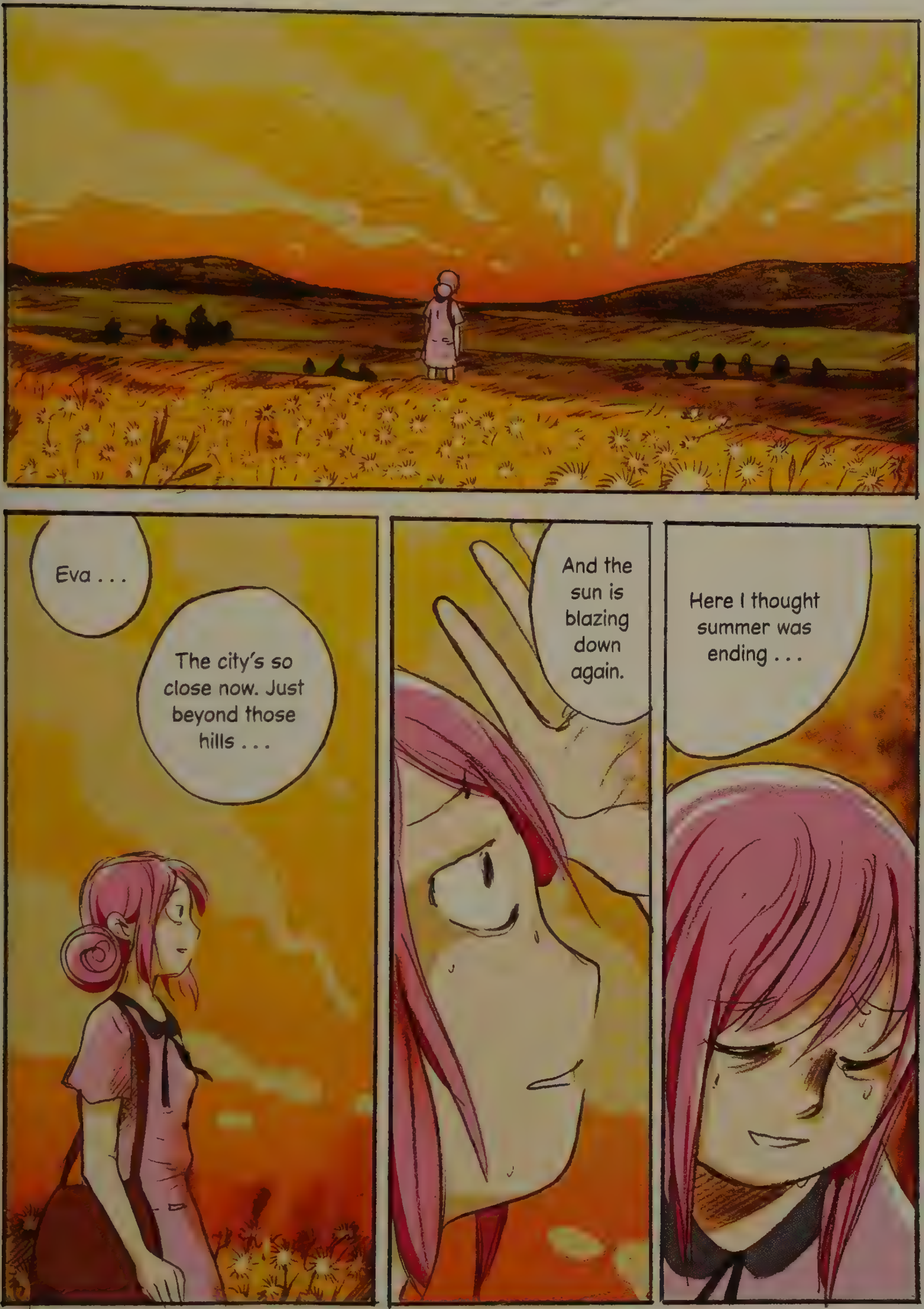

RUN!!!
KCHHHHHH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Go!
Go!
HUFF
HUFF
Where are they all coming from!?

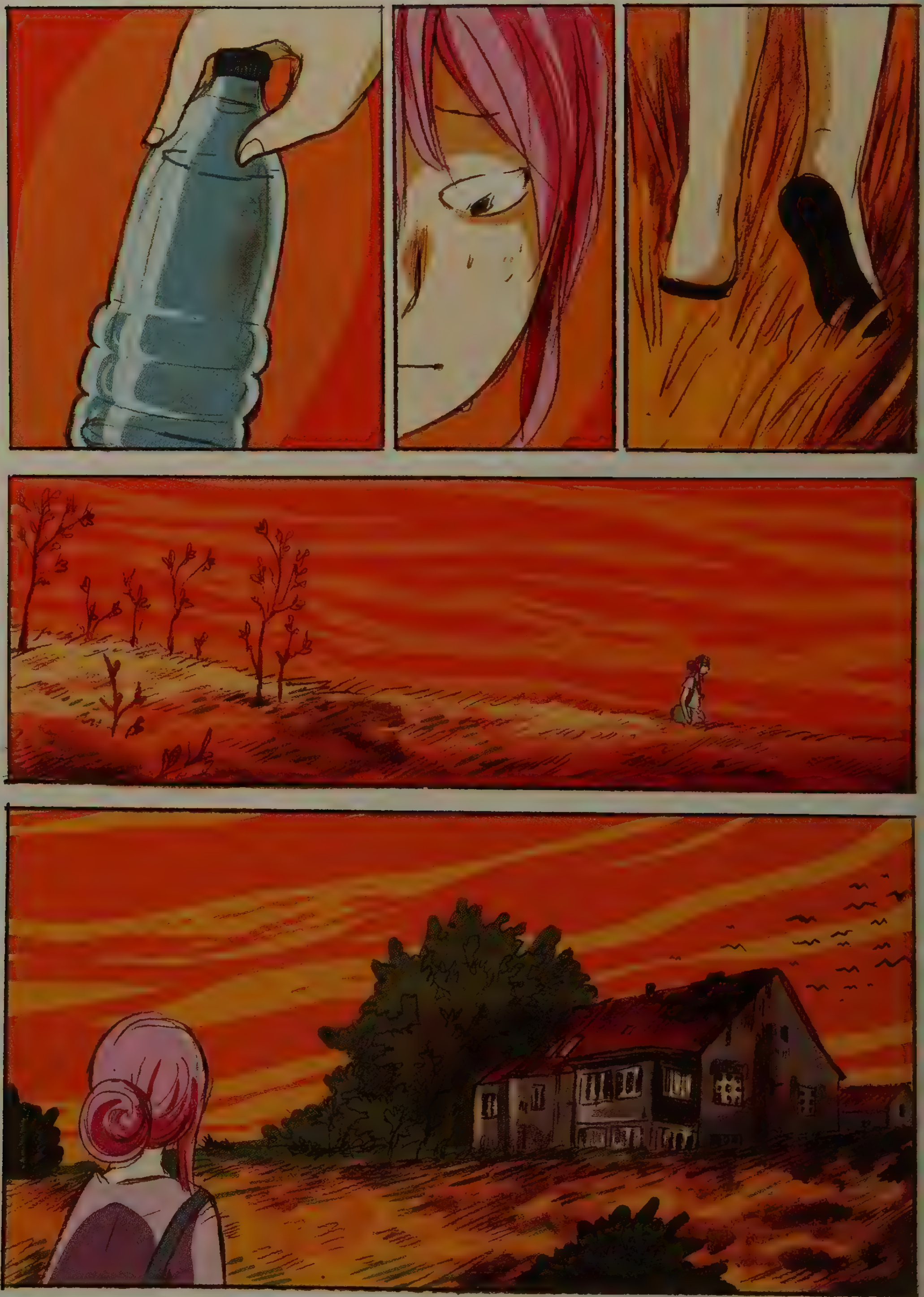

KCHHHH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...
Eva?
HUFF
HUFF

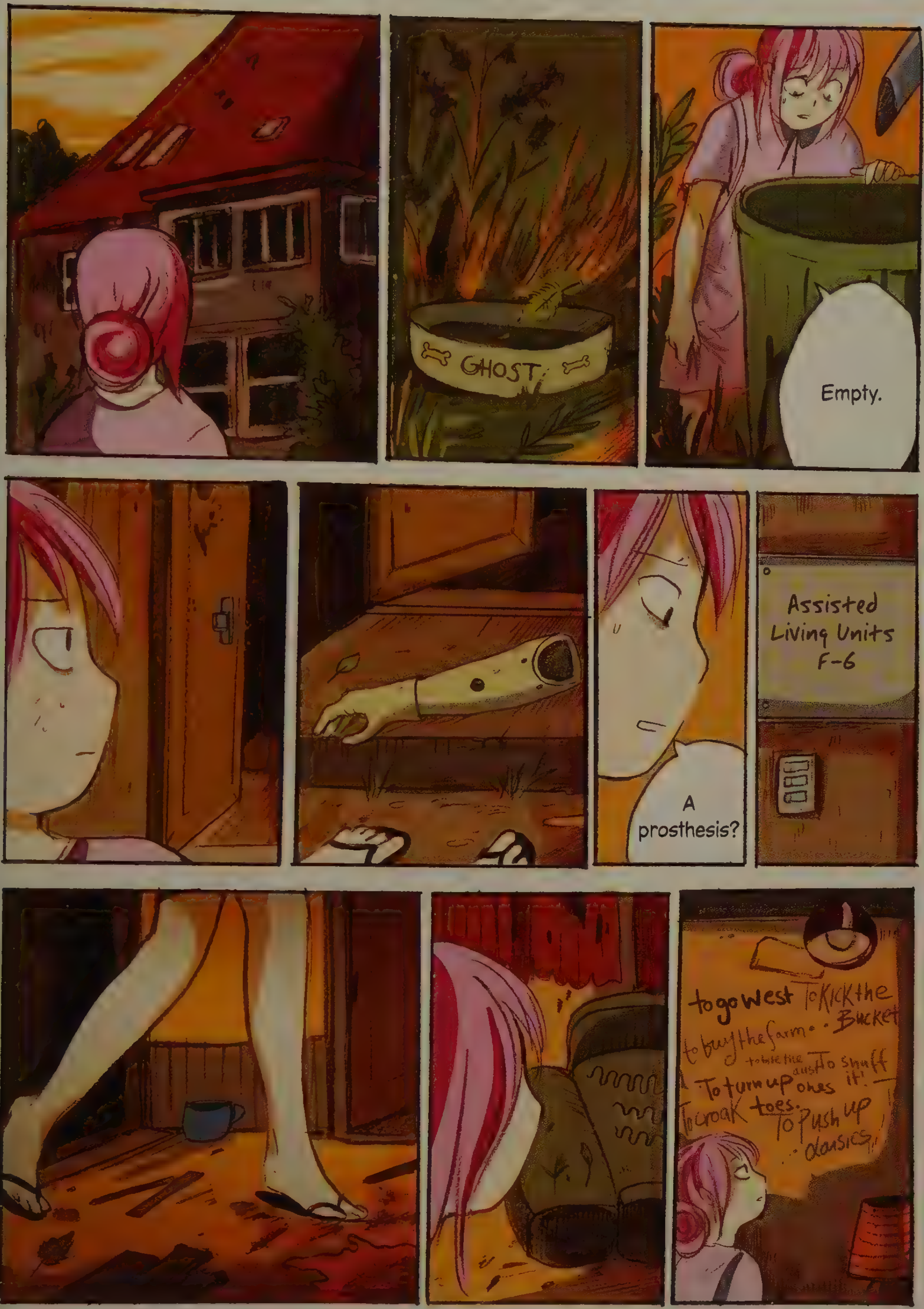

KCHHHHHHH
EVA!!
KCHHHHHHH
NO!

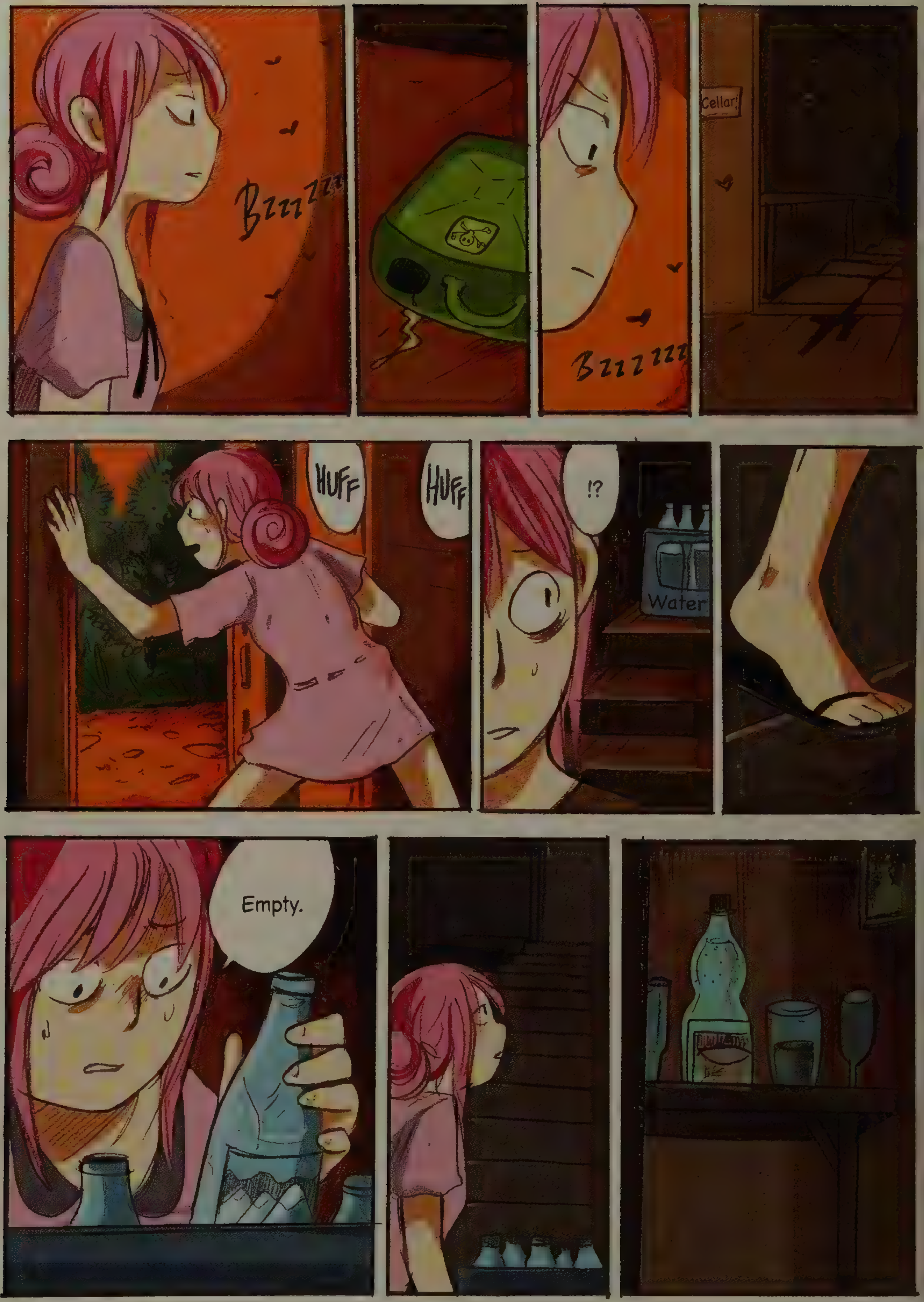

Vivi, if you don't run fast enough, I will chase you down and eat you alive.
And I'll enjoy it.
Take my bag!
Don't . . .
And just ***do something*** with your life!

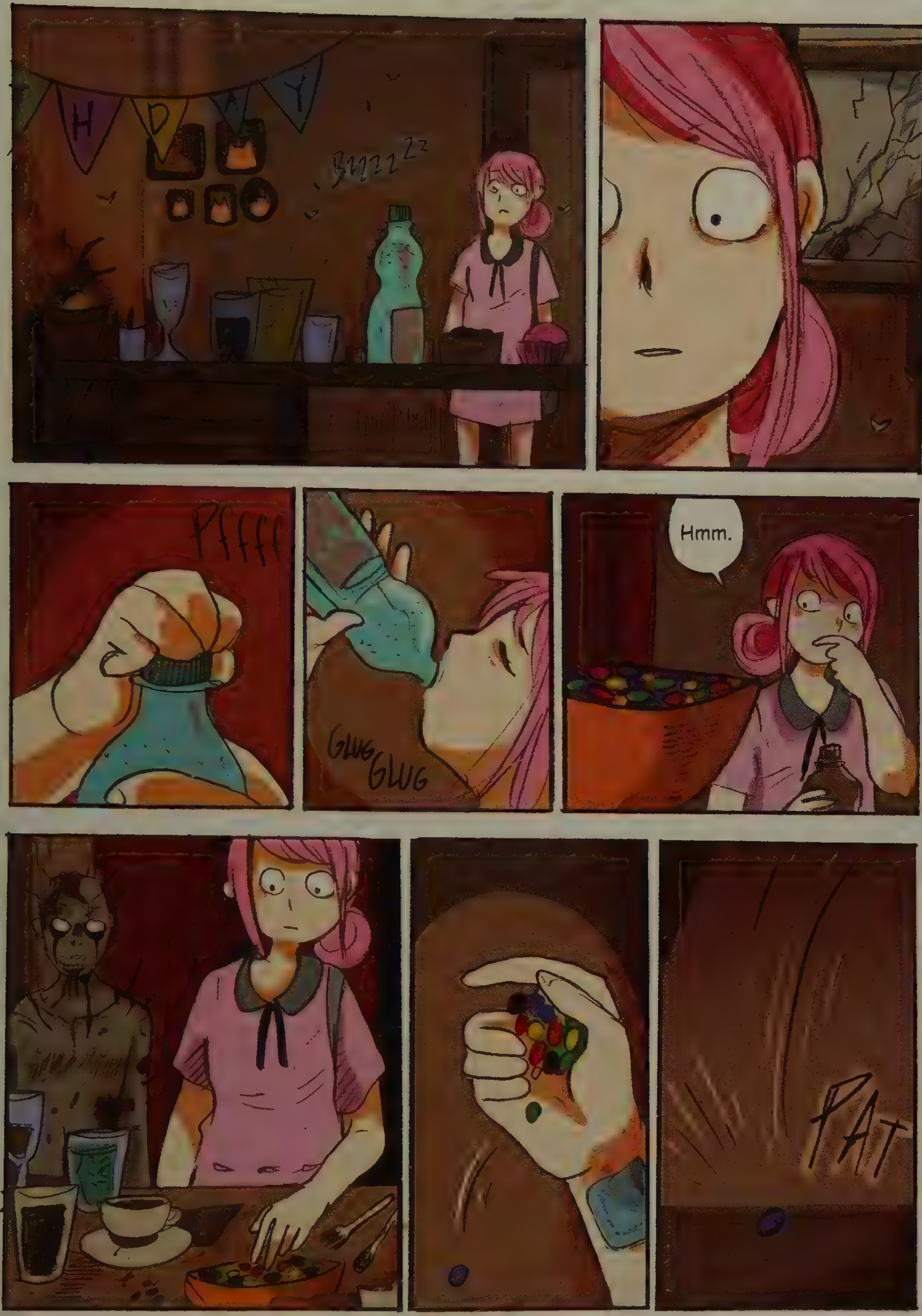

AHHHHH!

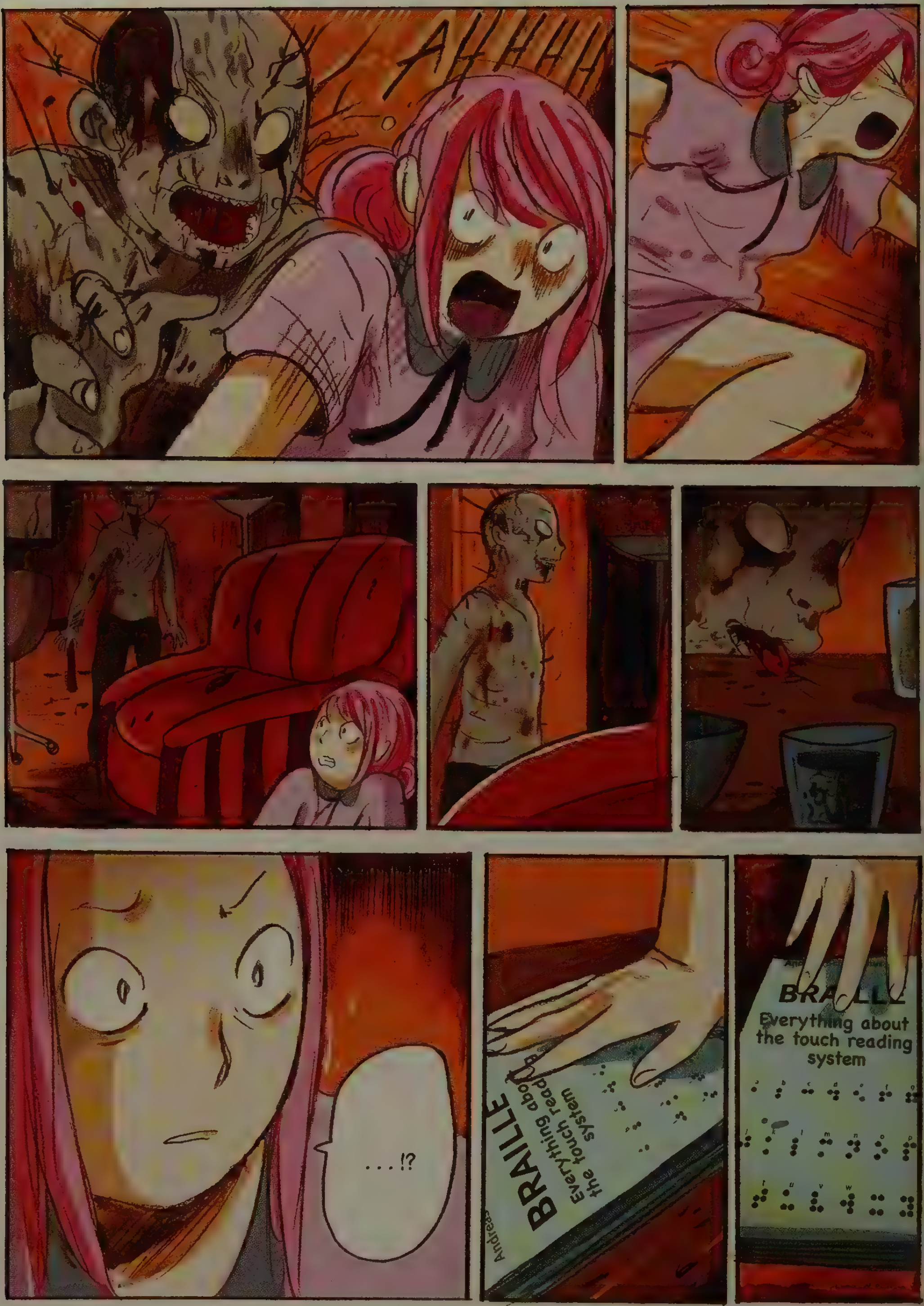

Eva . . .
The city's so close now. Just beyond those hills . . .
And the sun is blazing down again.
Here I thought summer was ending . . .

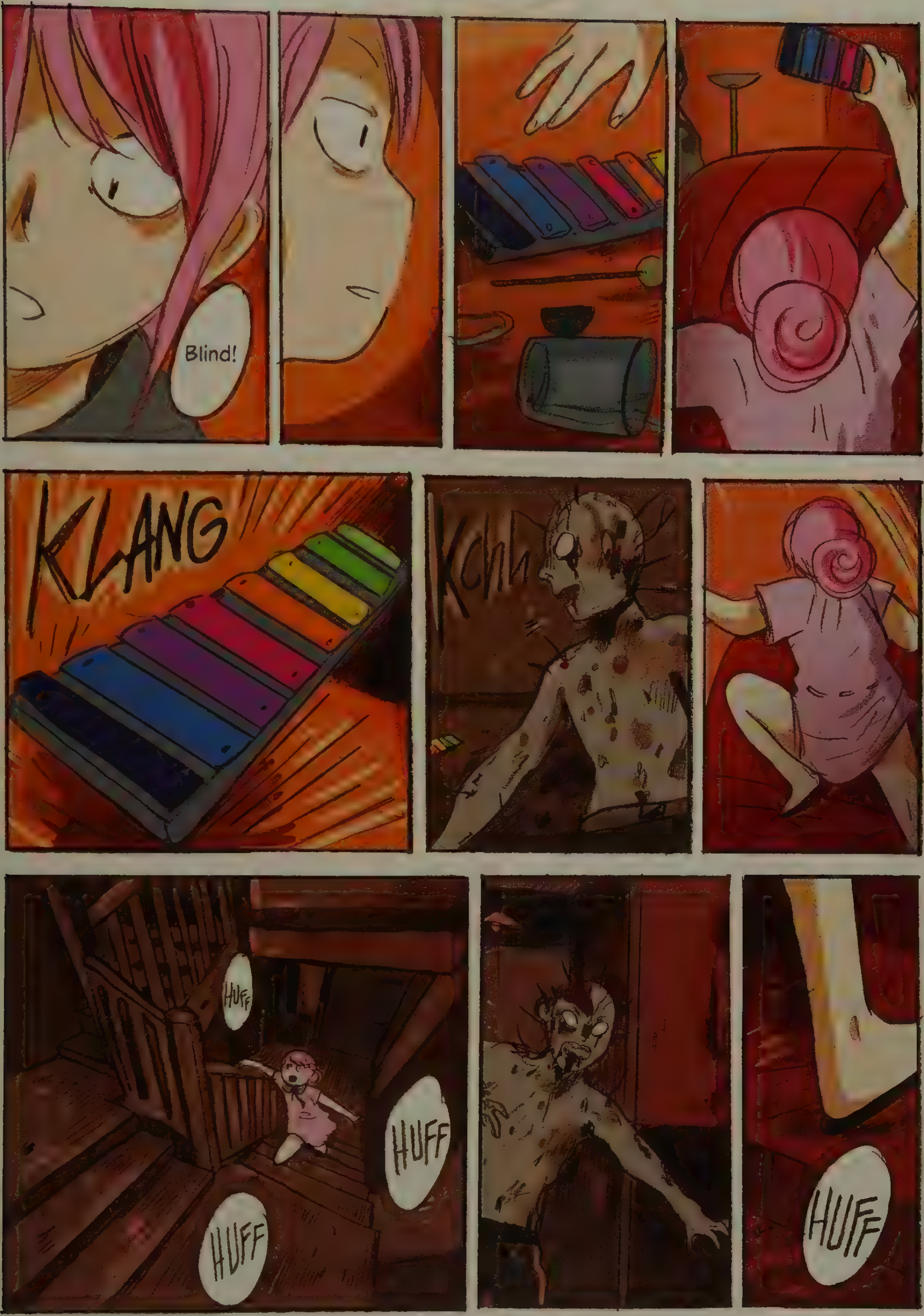


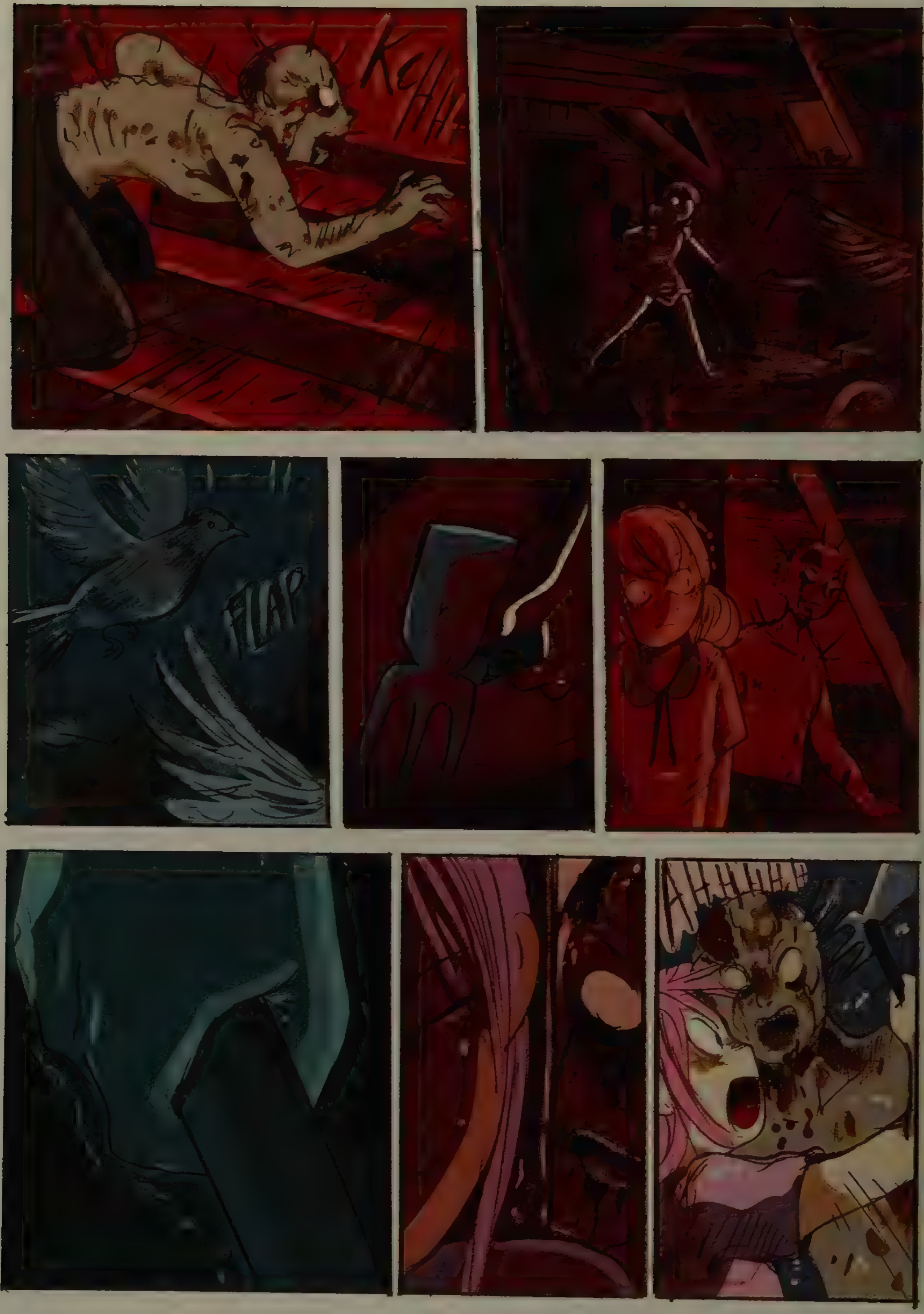

GHOST
Empty.
Assisted Living Units F-6
A prosthesis?
to go west
To Kick the Bucket
to buy the farm
to bite the dust
To snuff it!
To turn up ones toes.
To croak
To Push up daisies

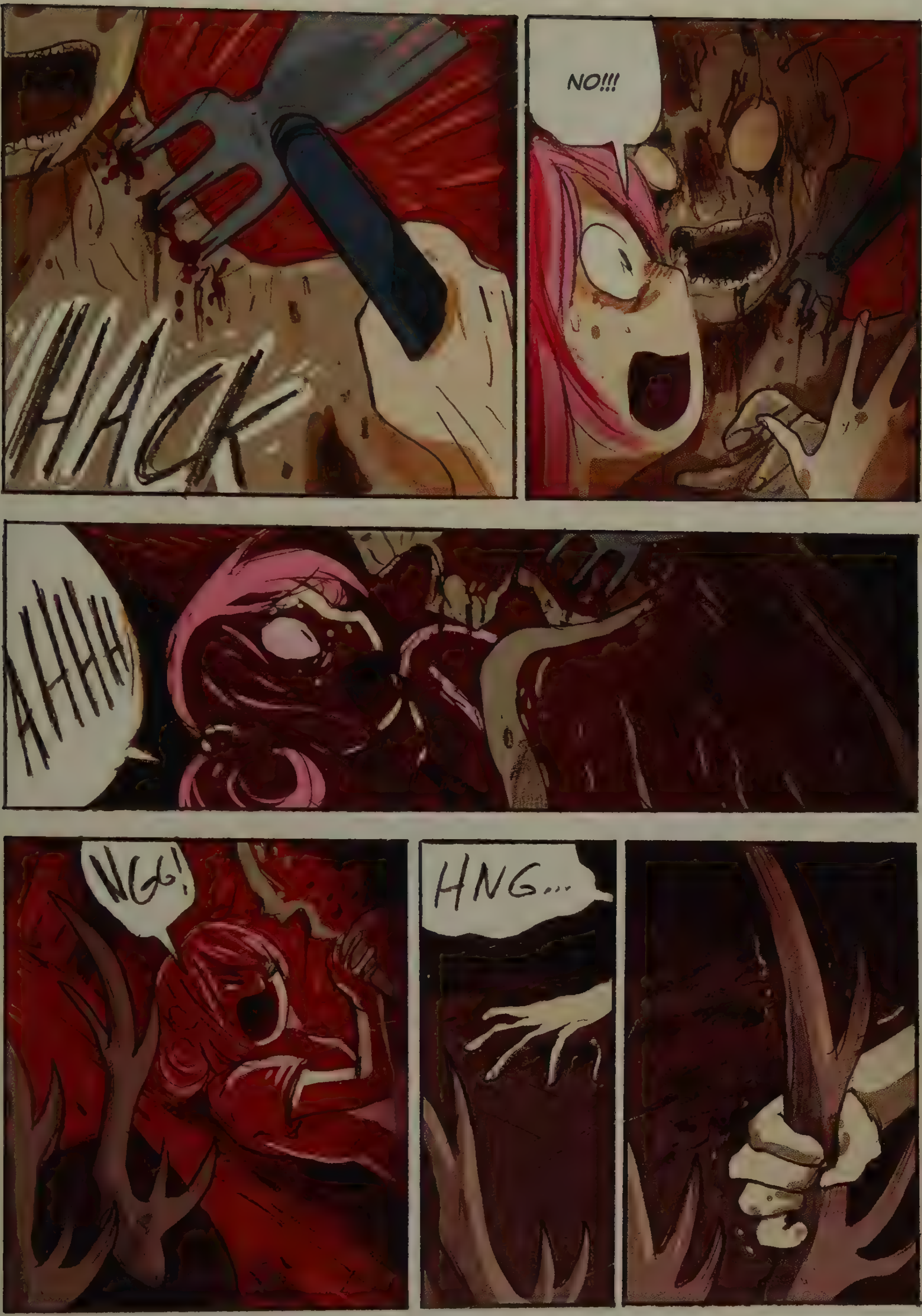

Bzzzzzz
Bzzzzzz
Cellar!
HUFF
HUFF
!?
Water
Empty.

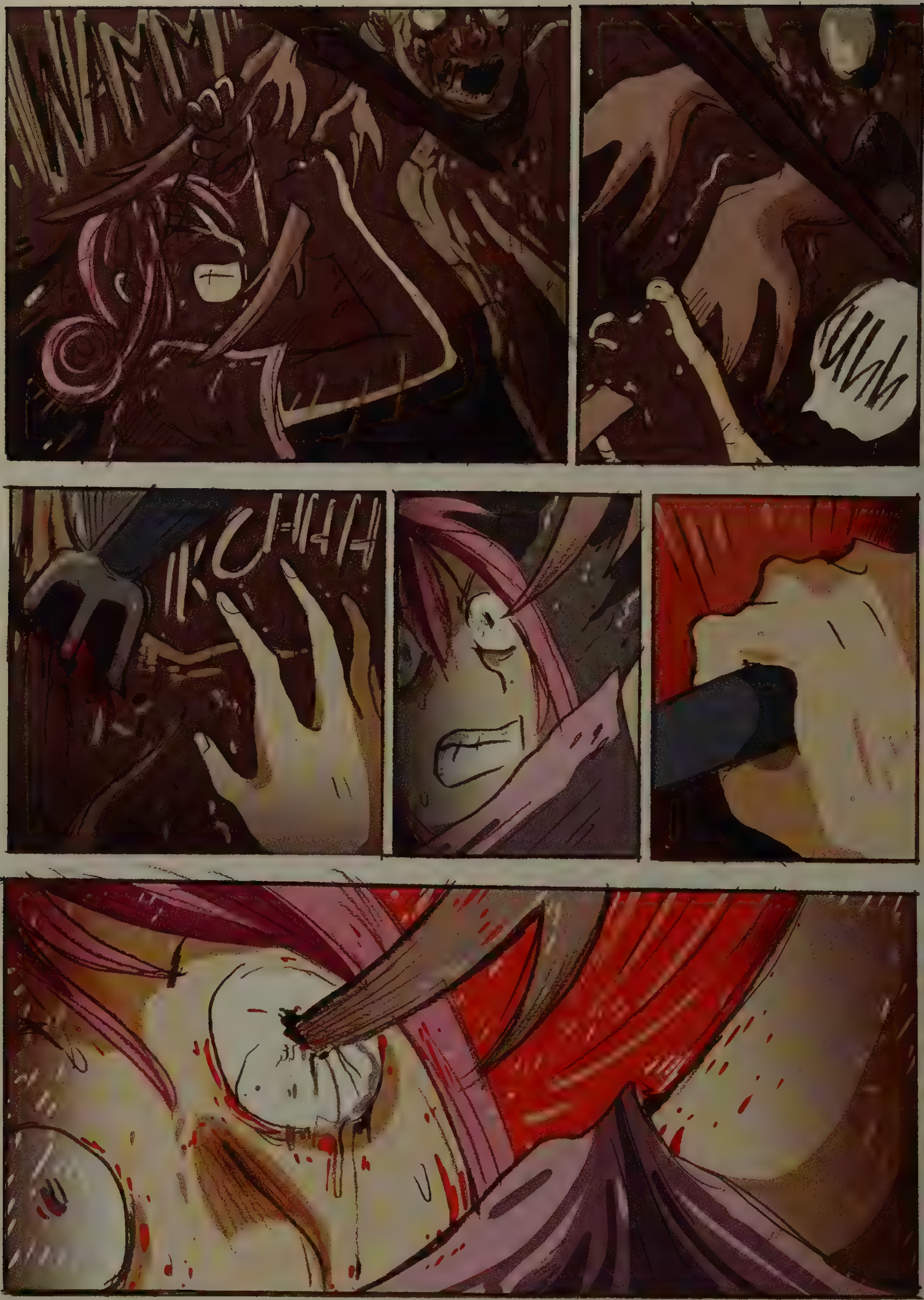

H D A Y
Bzzzzzz
Pfffff
GLUG GLUG
Hmm.
PAT

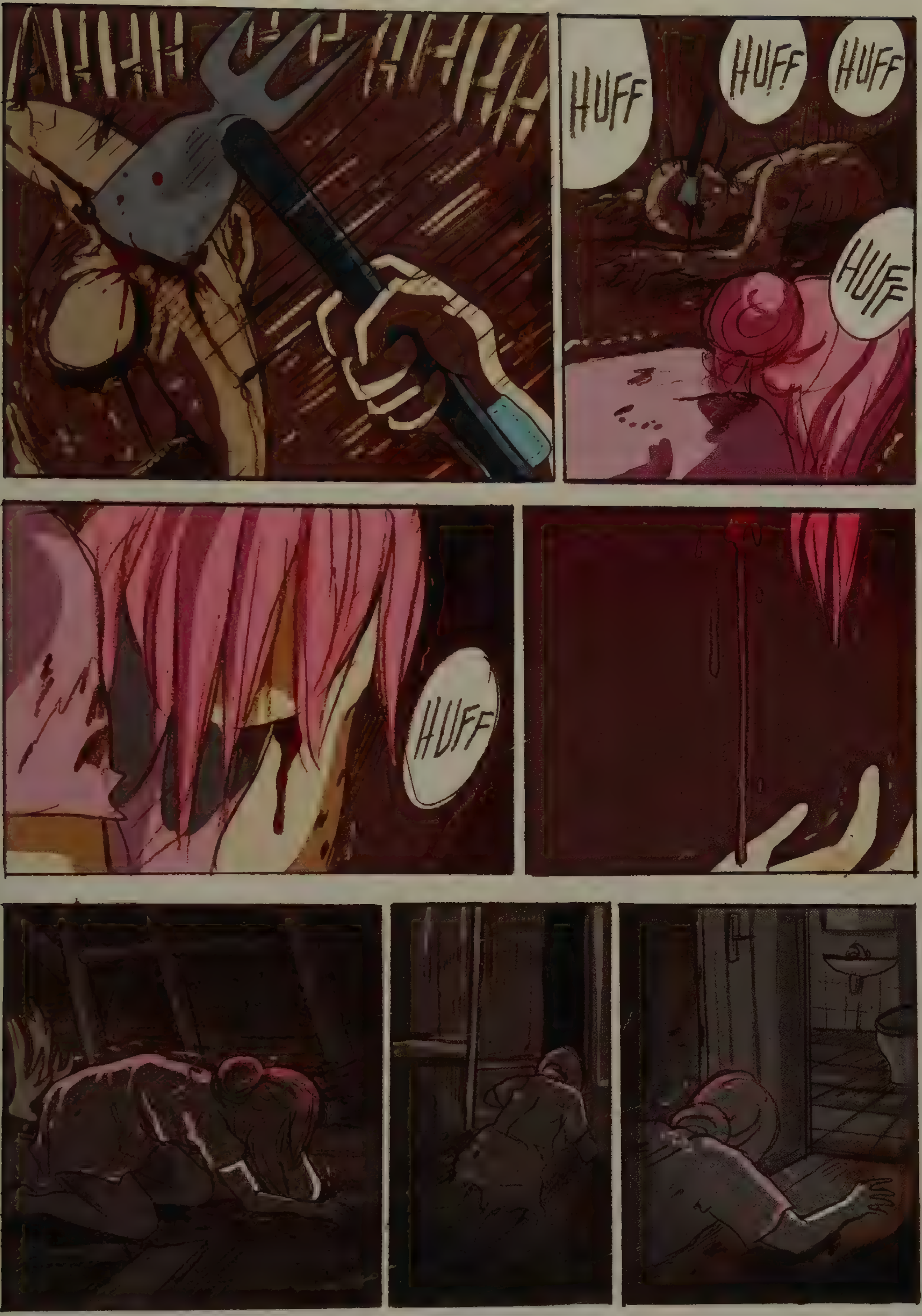

AHHHH
...!?
Andreas
BRAILLE
Everything abo
the touch read
system
BRA LLE
Everything about the touch reading system

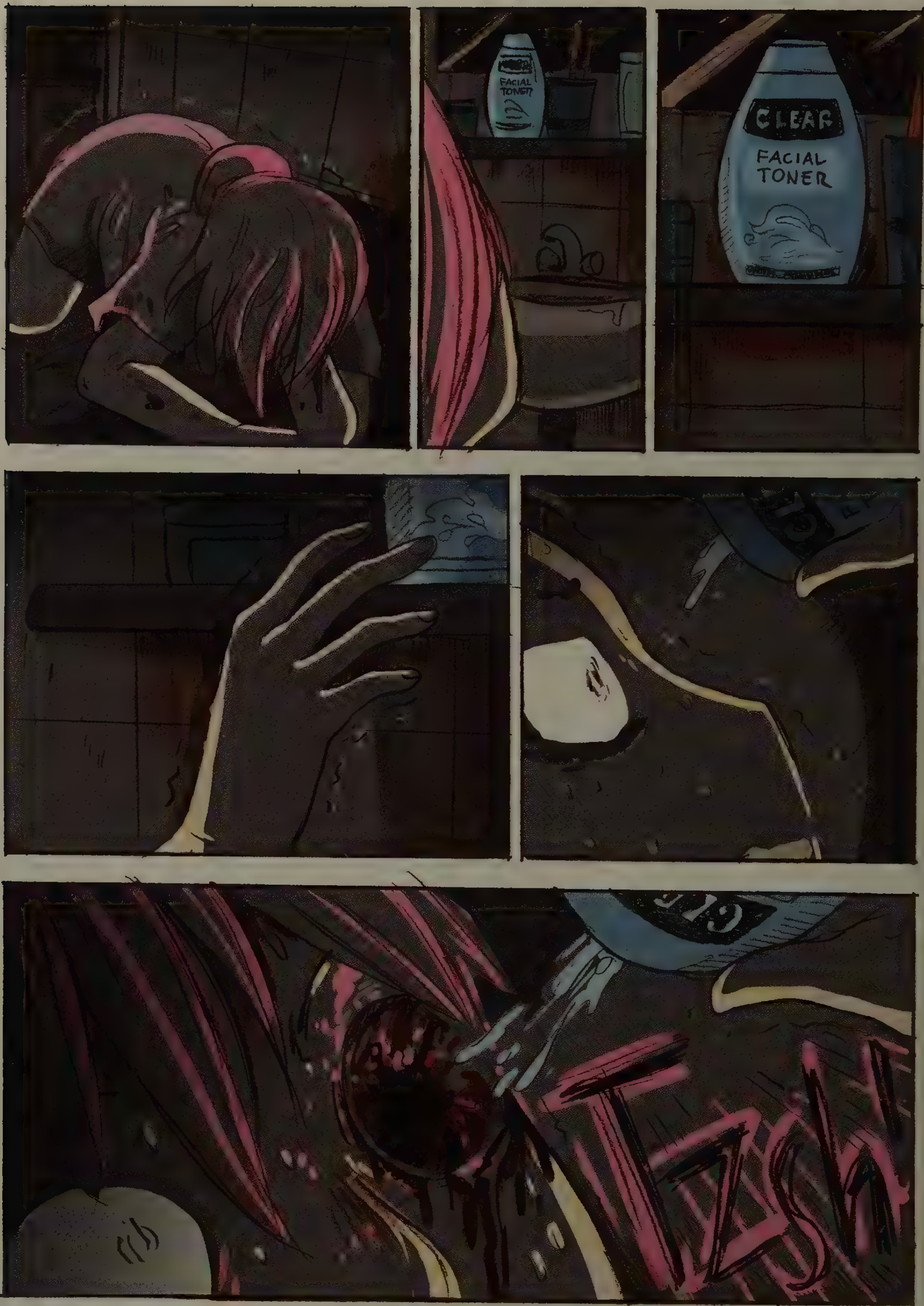

Blind!
KLANG
Kchh
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

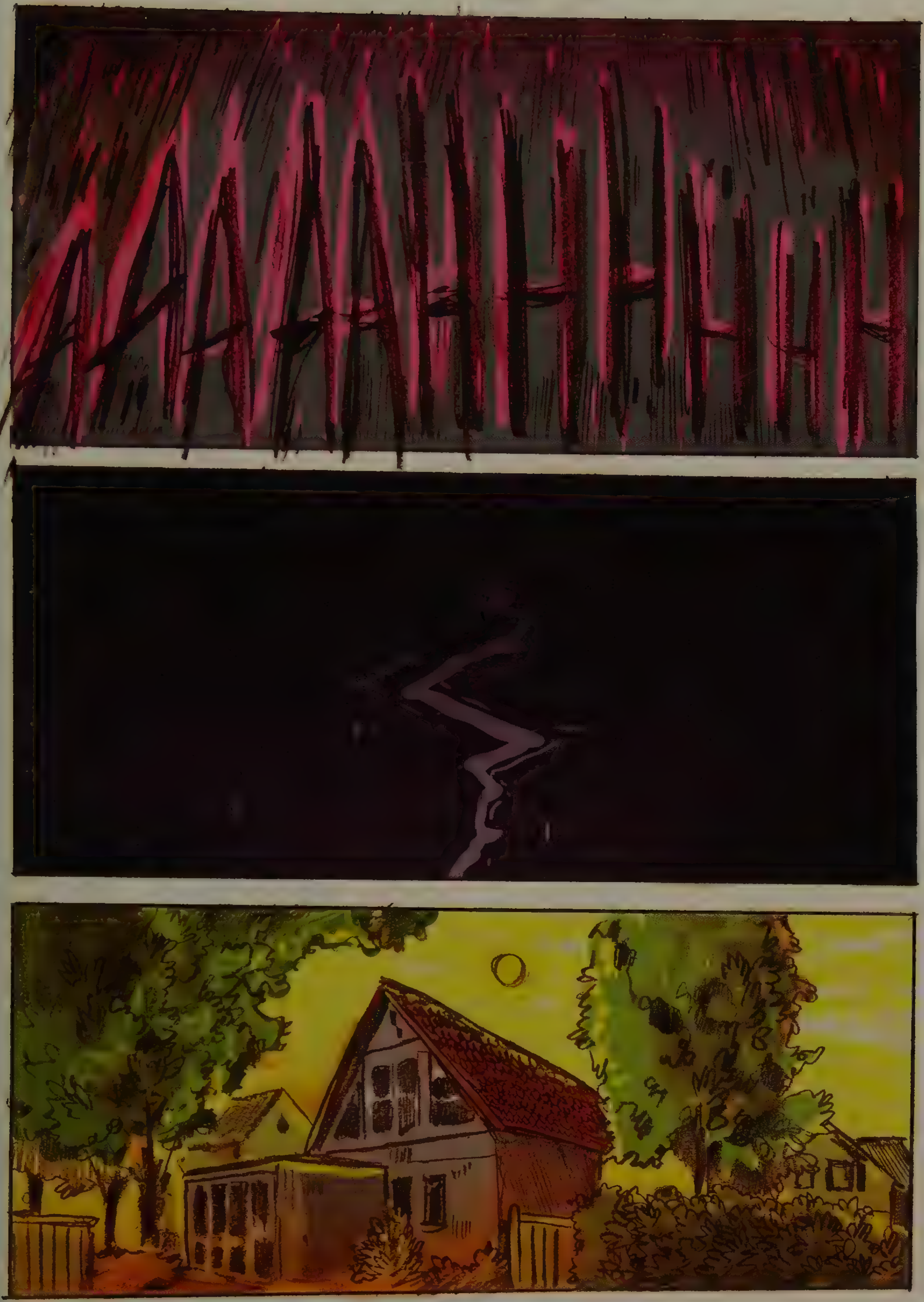

KCHHH
FLAP
AHHHHHR

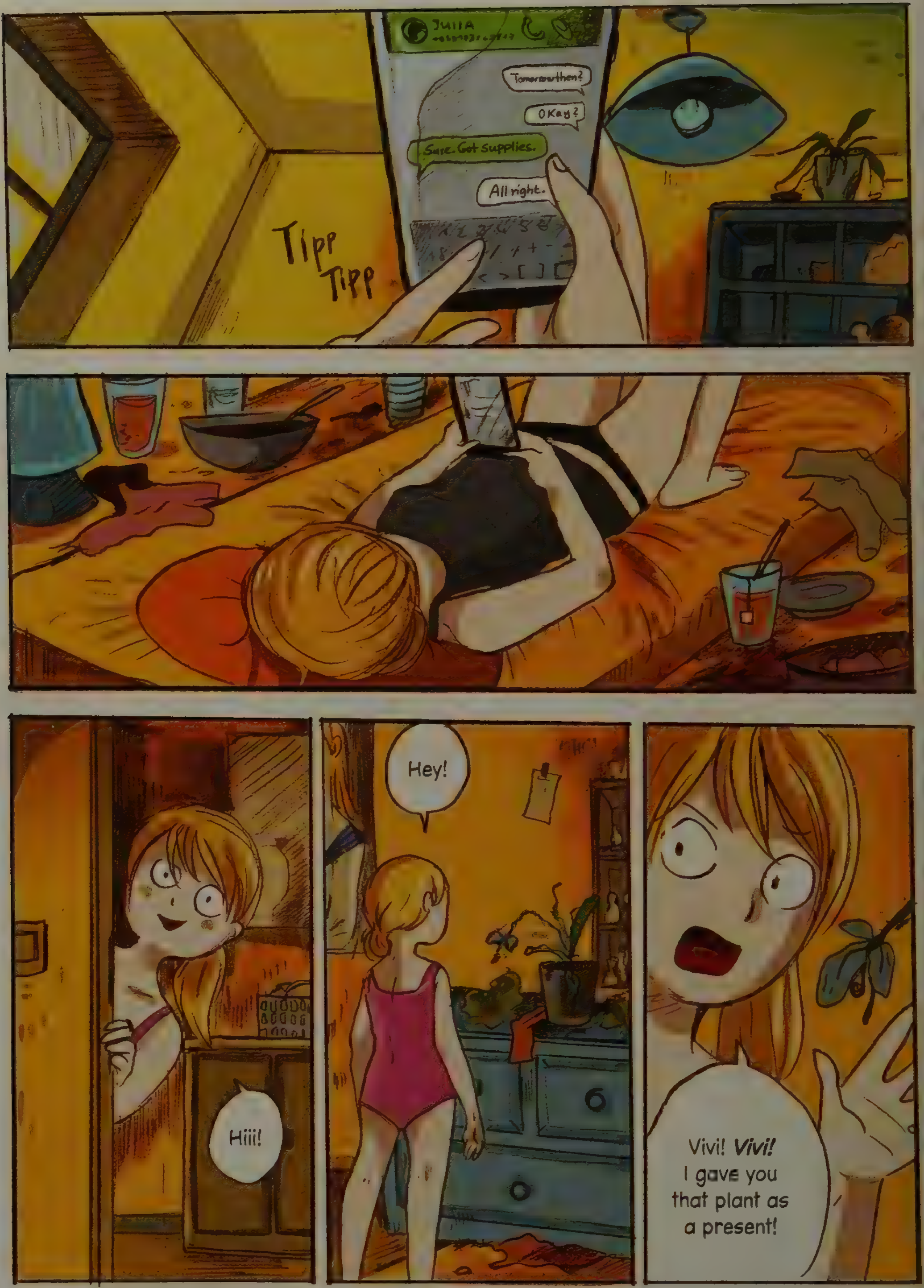

WHACK
NO!!!
AHHHH
NGG!
HNG...

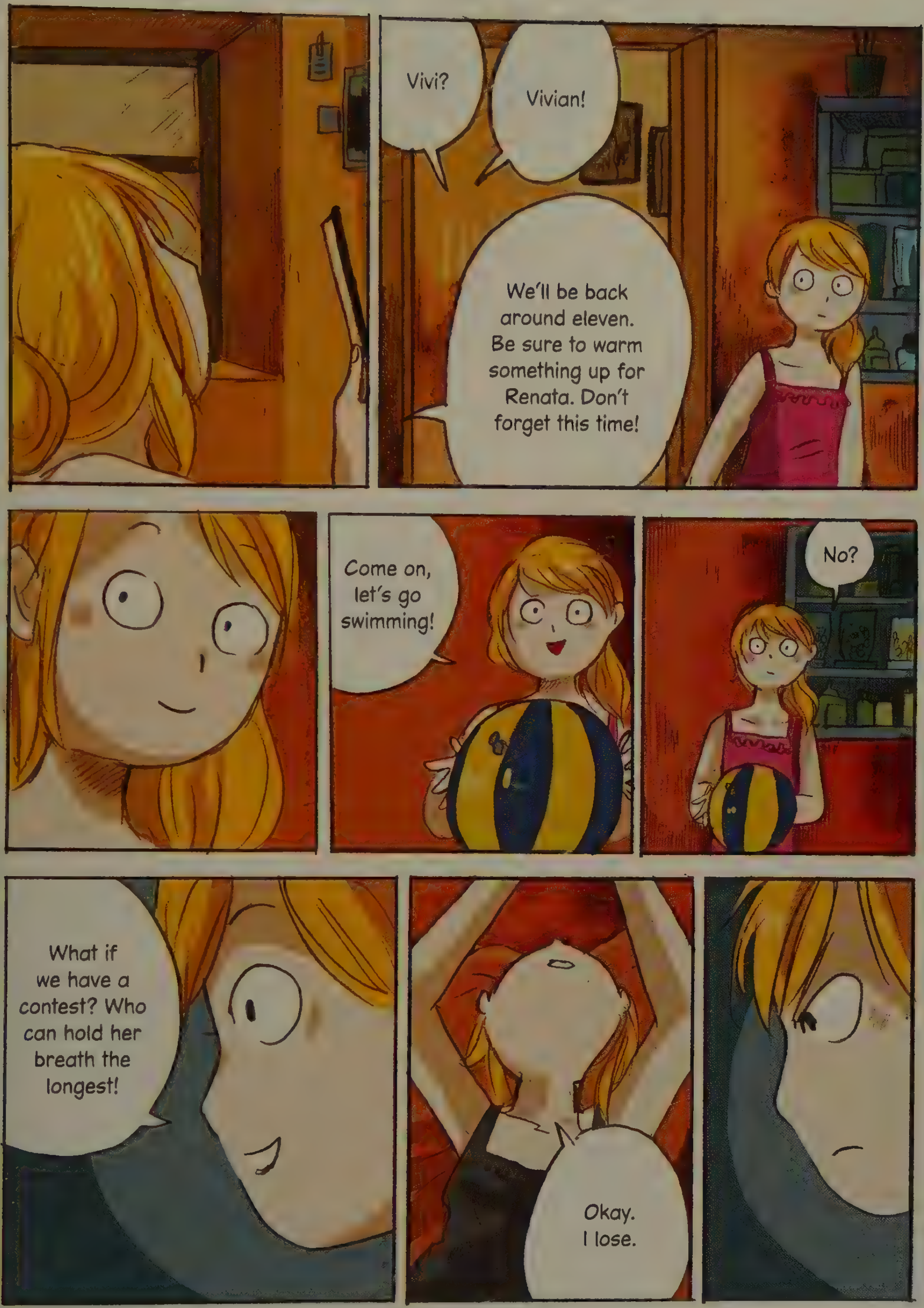

WAMM
Uhh
KCHHH

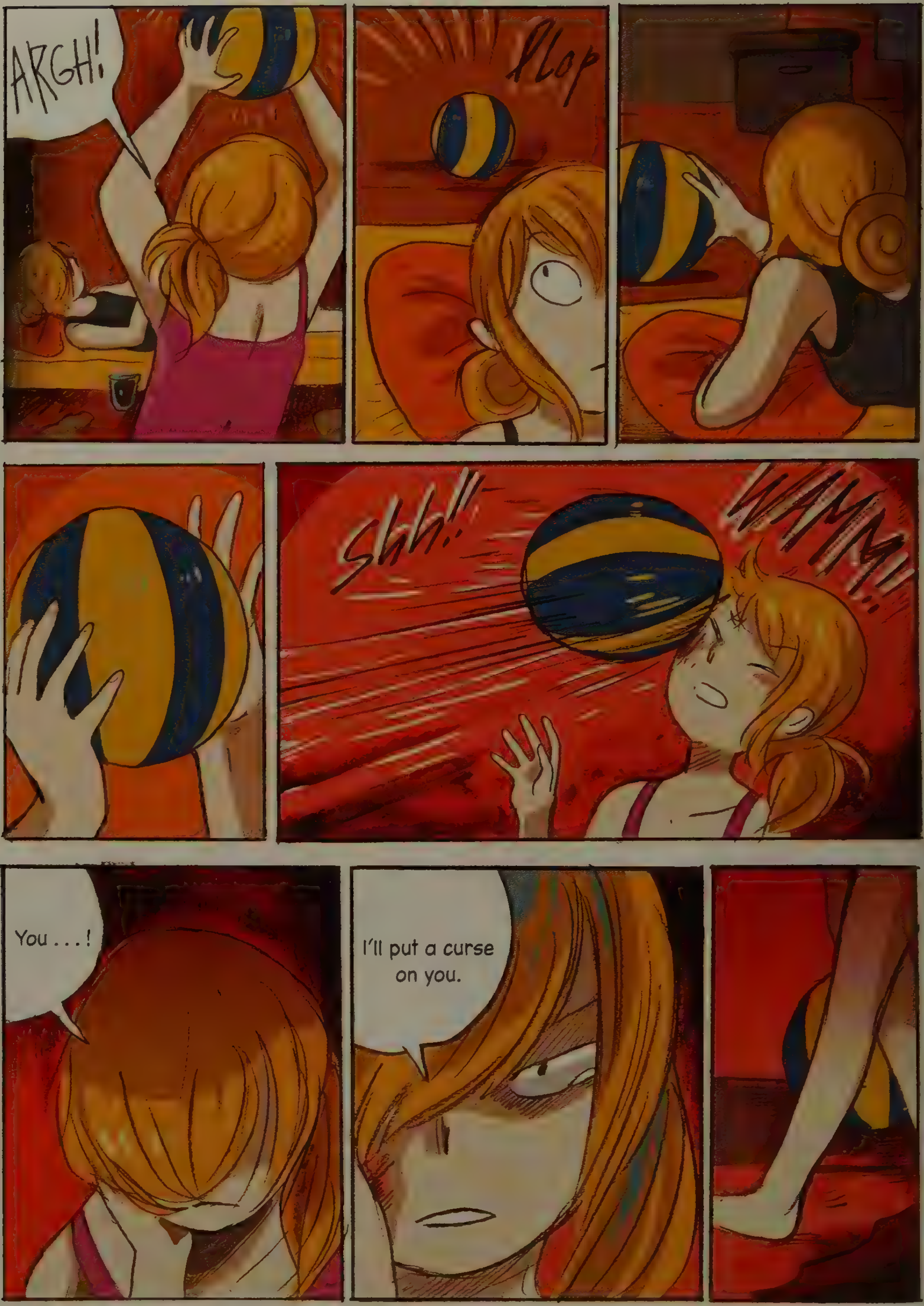

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

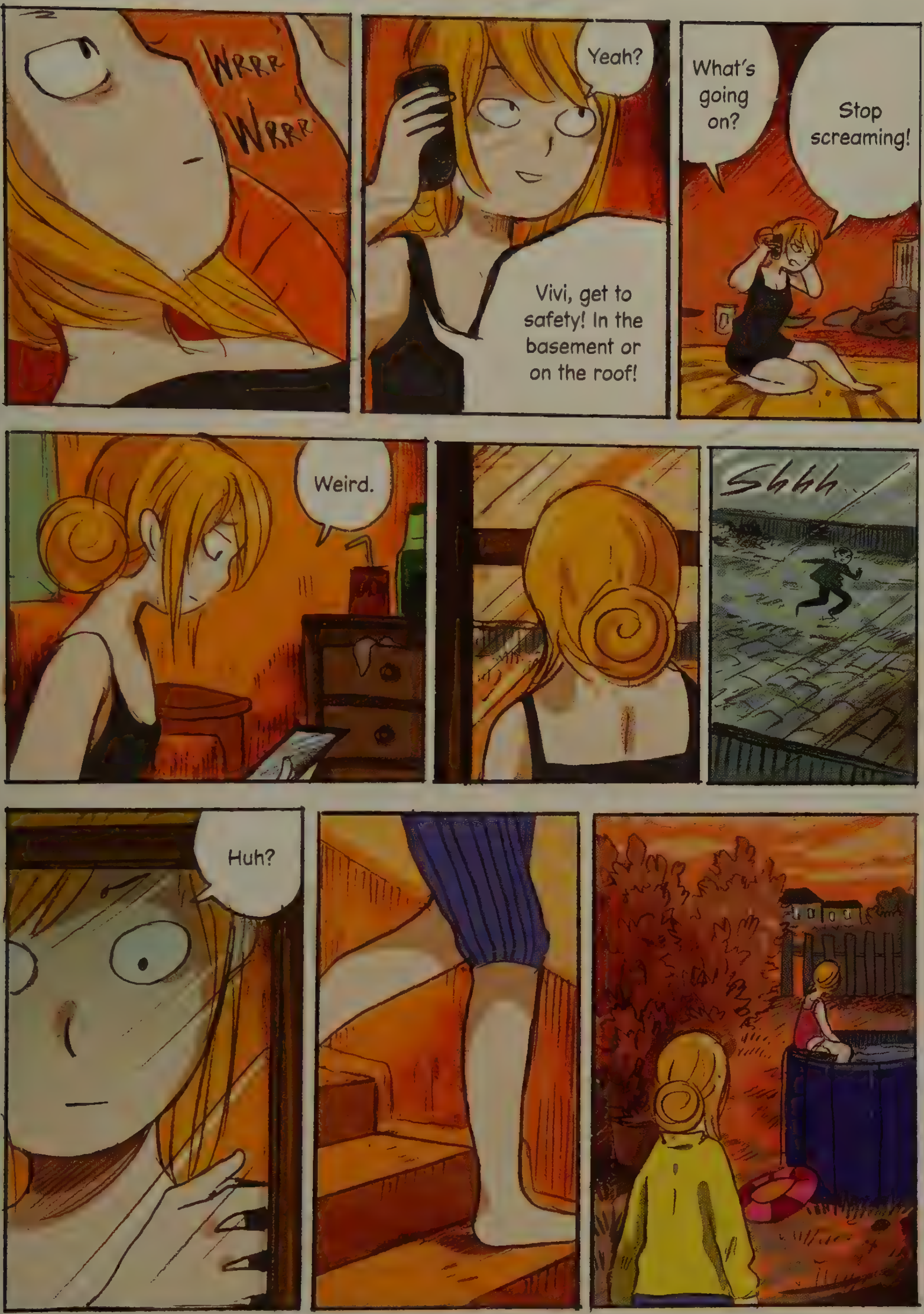

FACIAL TONER
CLEAR
FACIAL TONER
Tzsh!

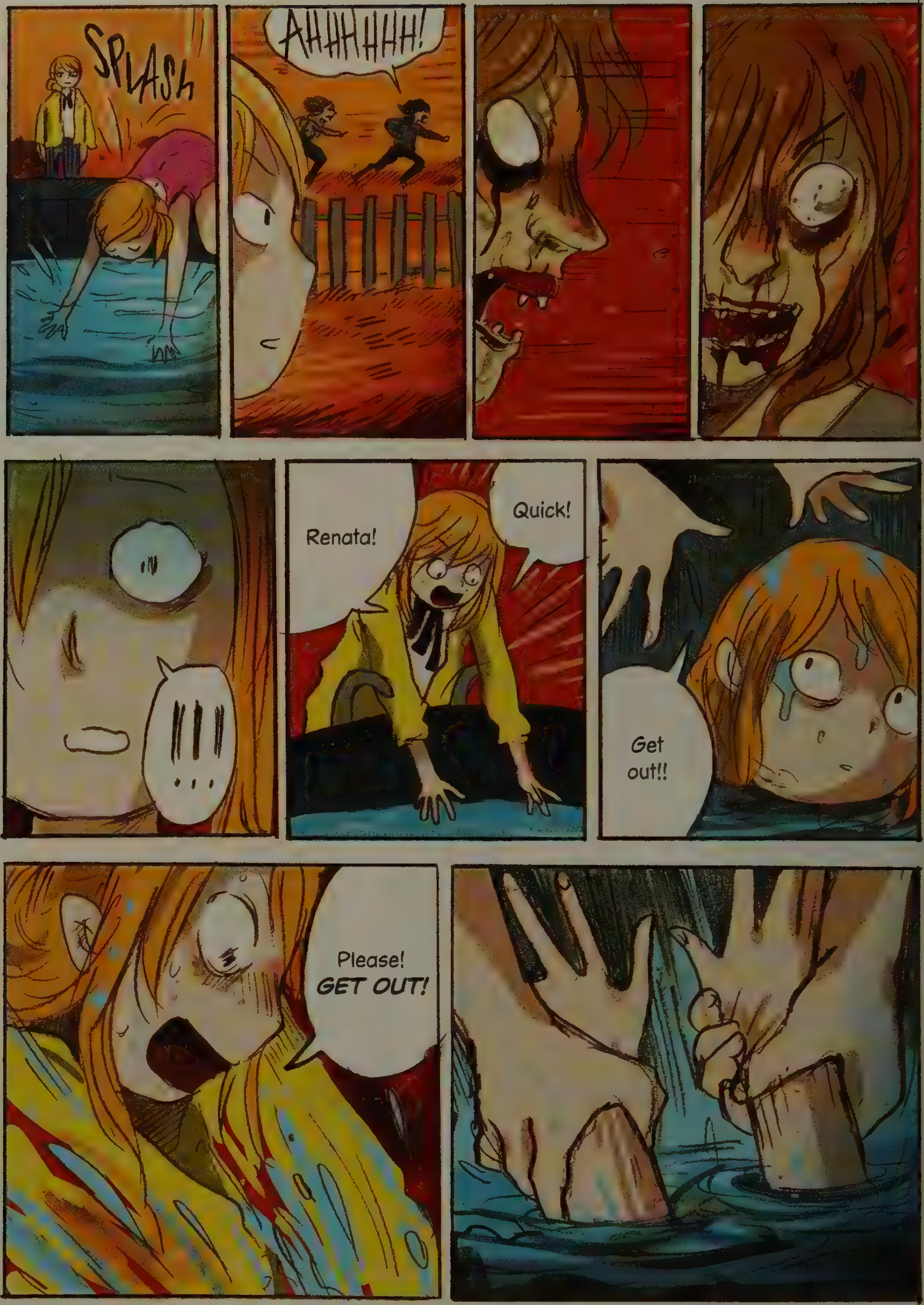

AAAAHHHHHH

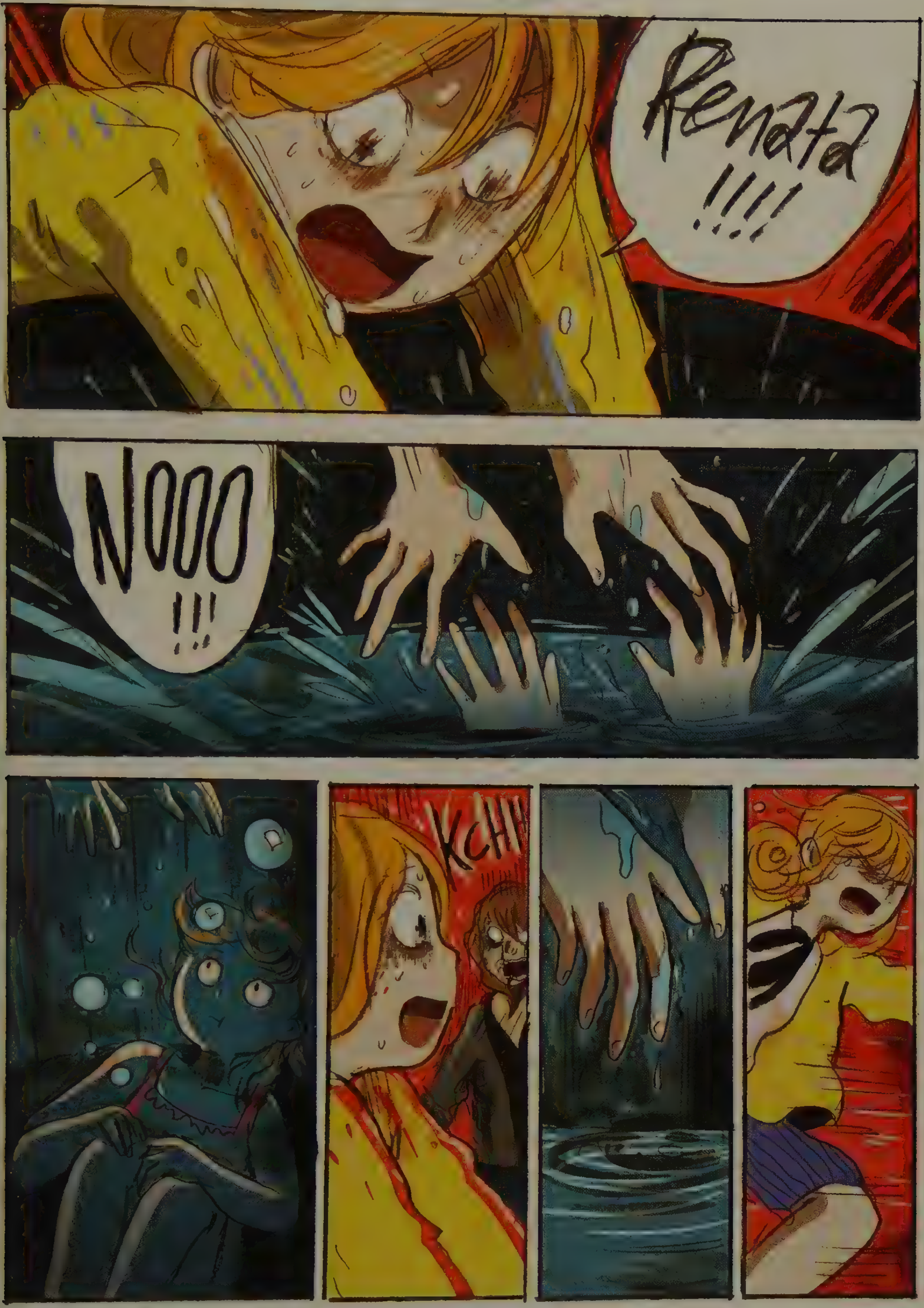
JULIA
Tomorrow then?
OKay?
Sure. Got supplies.
All right.
Tipp
Tipp
Hiii!
Hey!
Vivi! *Vivi!* I gave you that plant as a present!

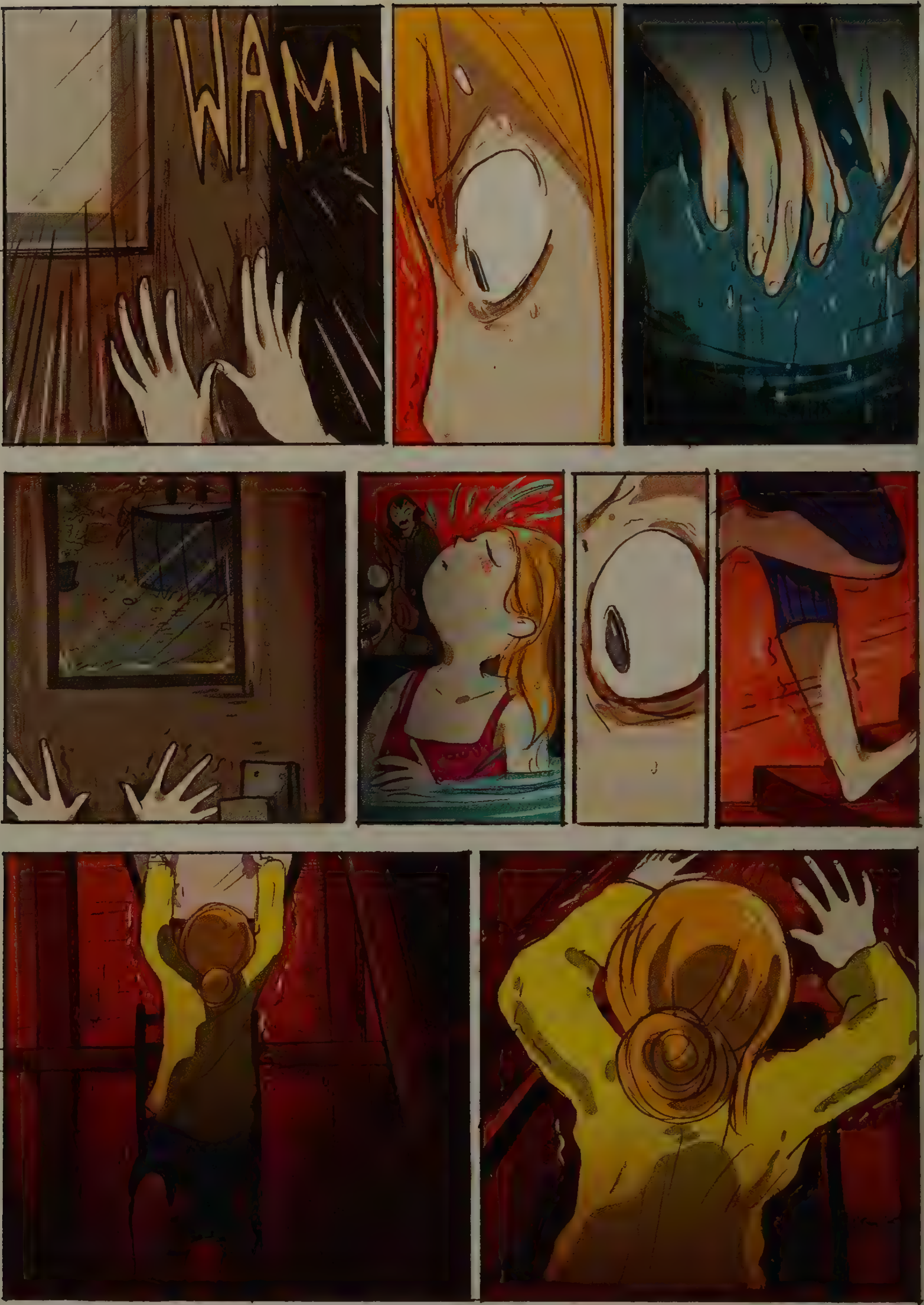

Vivi?
Vivian!
We'll be back around eleven. Be sure to warm something up for Renata. Don't forget this time!
Come on, let's go swimming!
No?
What if we have a contest? Who can hold her breath the longest!
Okay. I lose.

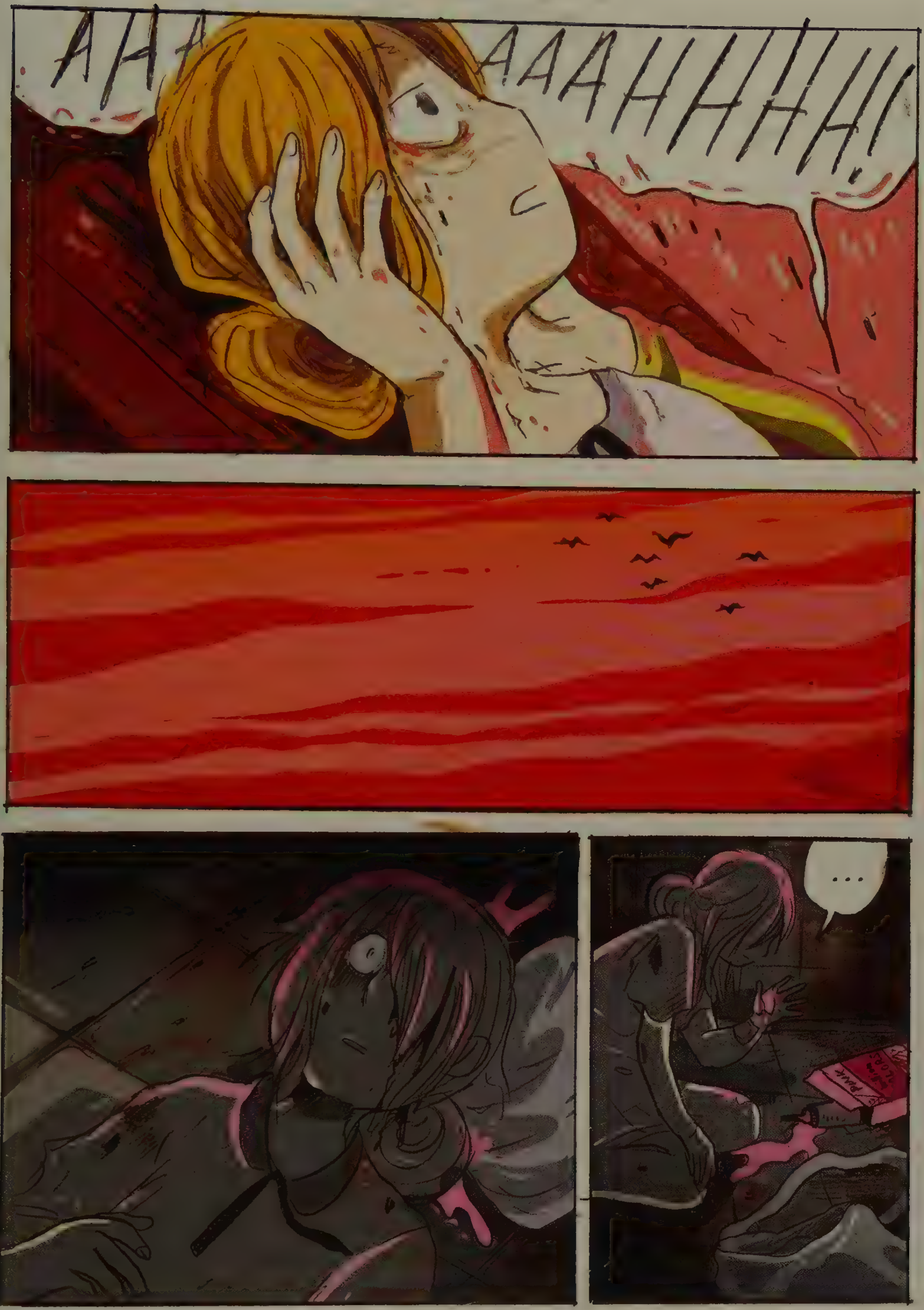

ARGH!
Flop
Shh!!
WAMM!!
You . . . !
I'll put a curse on you.

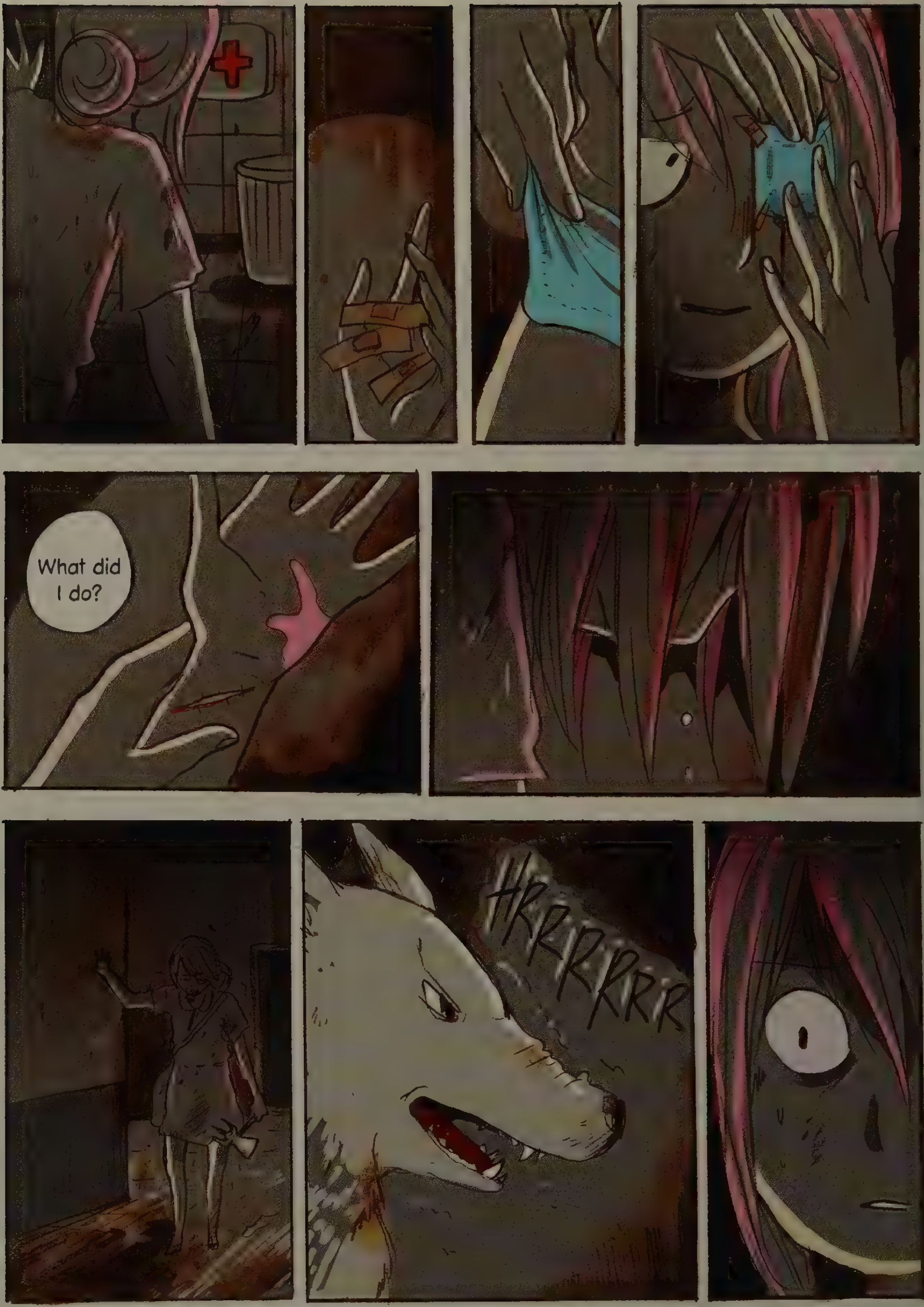

WRRR
WRRR
Yeah?
Vivi, get to safety! In the basement or on the roof!
What's going on?
Stop screaming!
Weird.
Shhh
Huh?

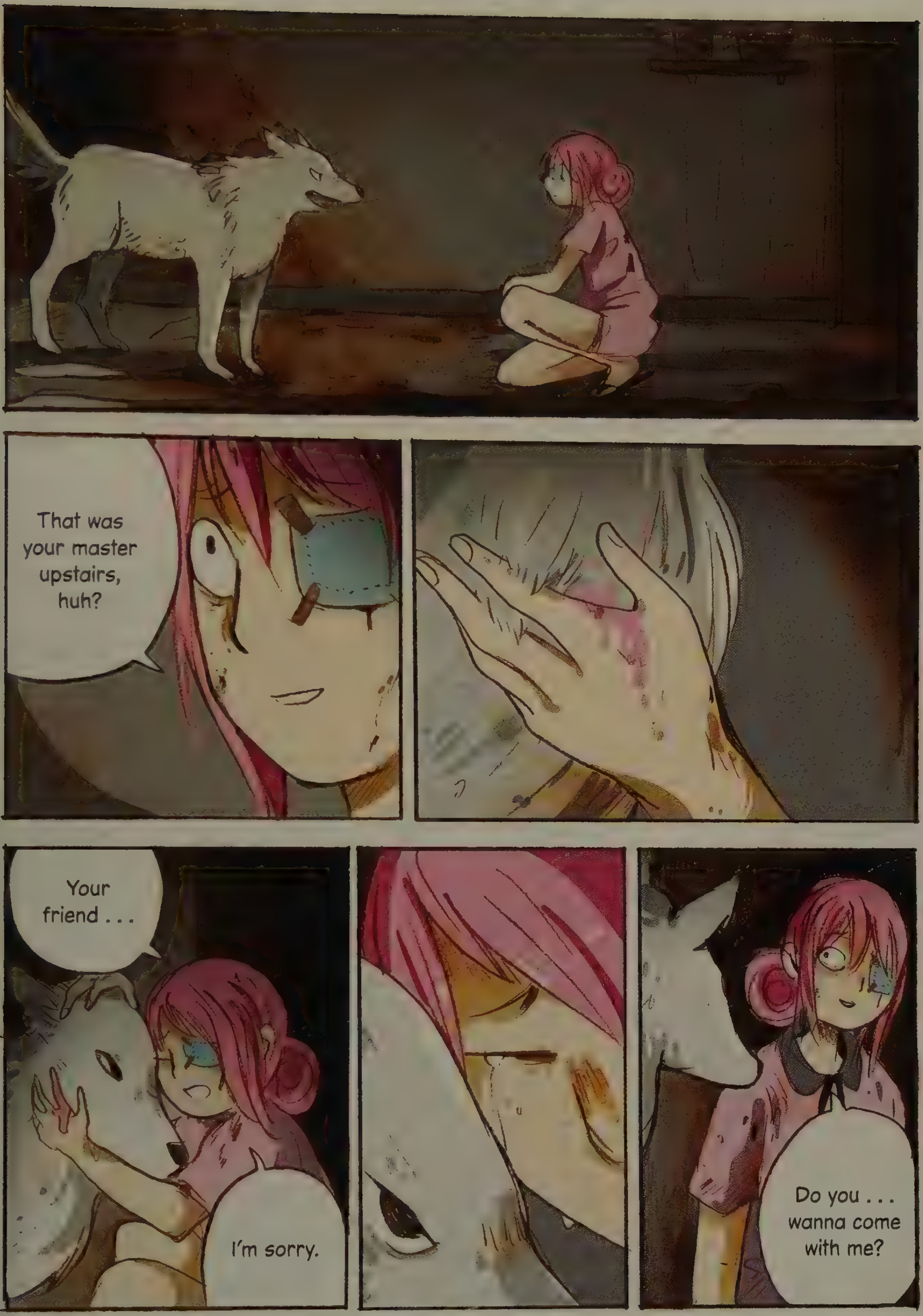

SPLASH
AHHHHHH!
!!!...
Renata!
Quick!
Get out!!
Please! GET OUT!

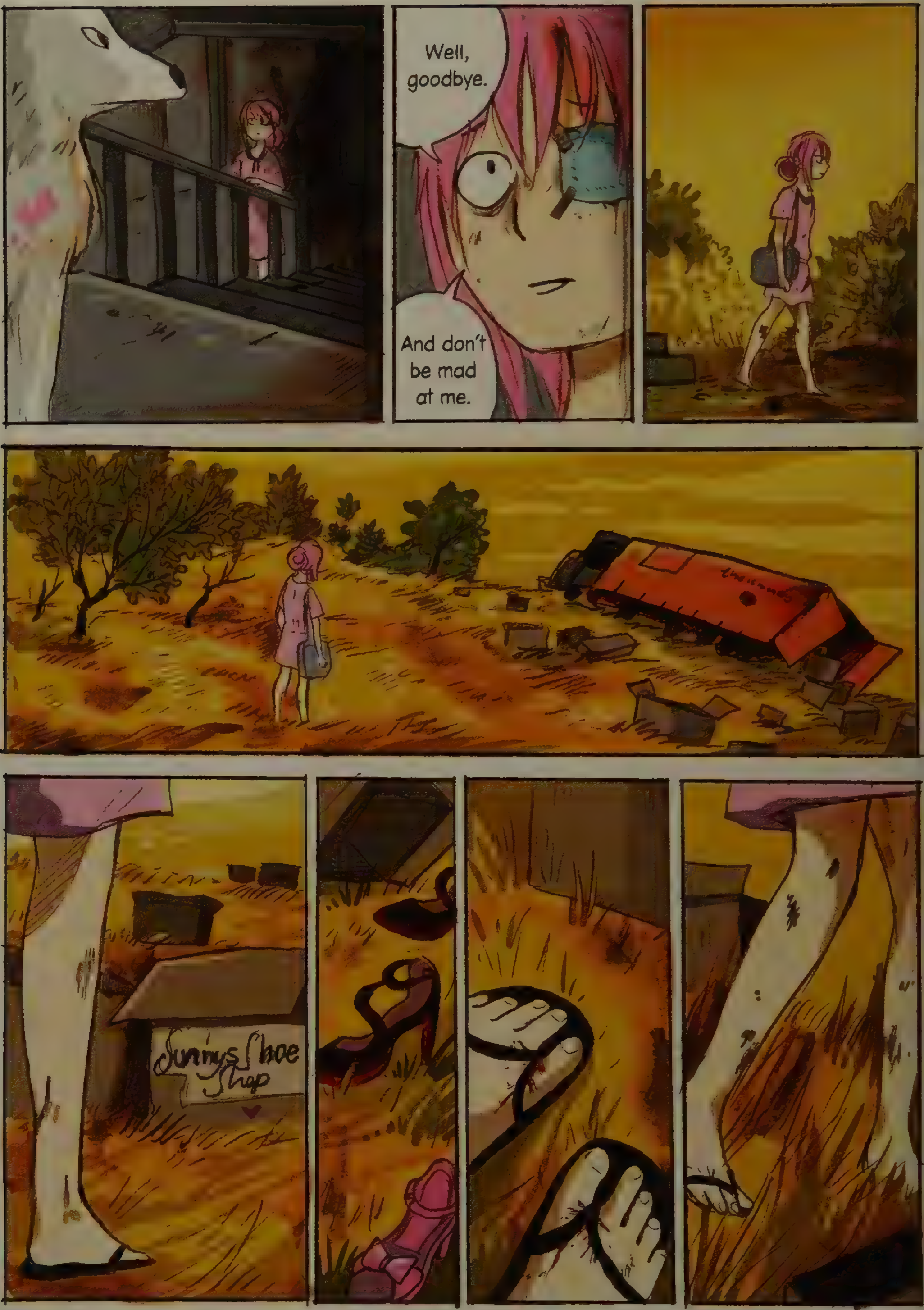

Renata !!!!
Nooo !!!
KCH

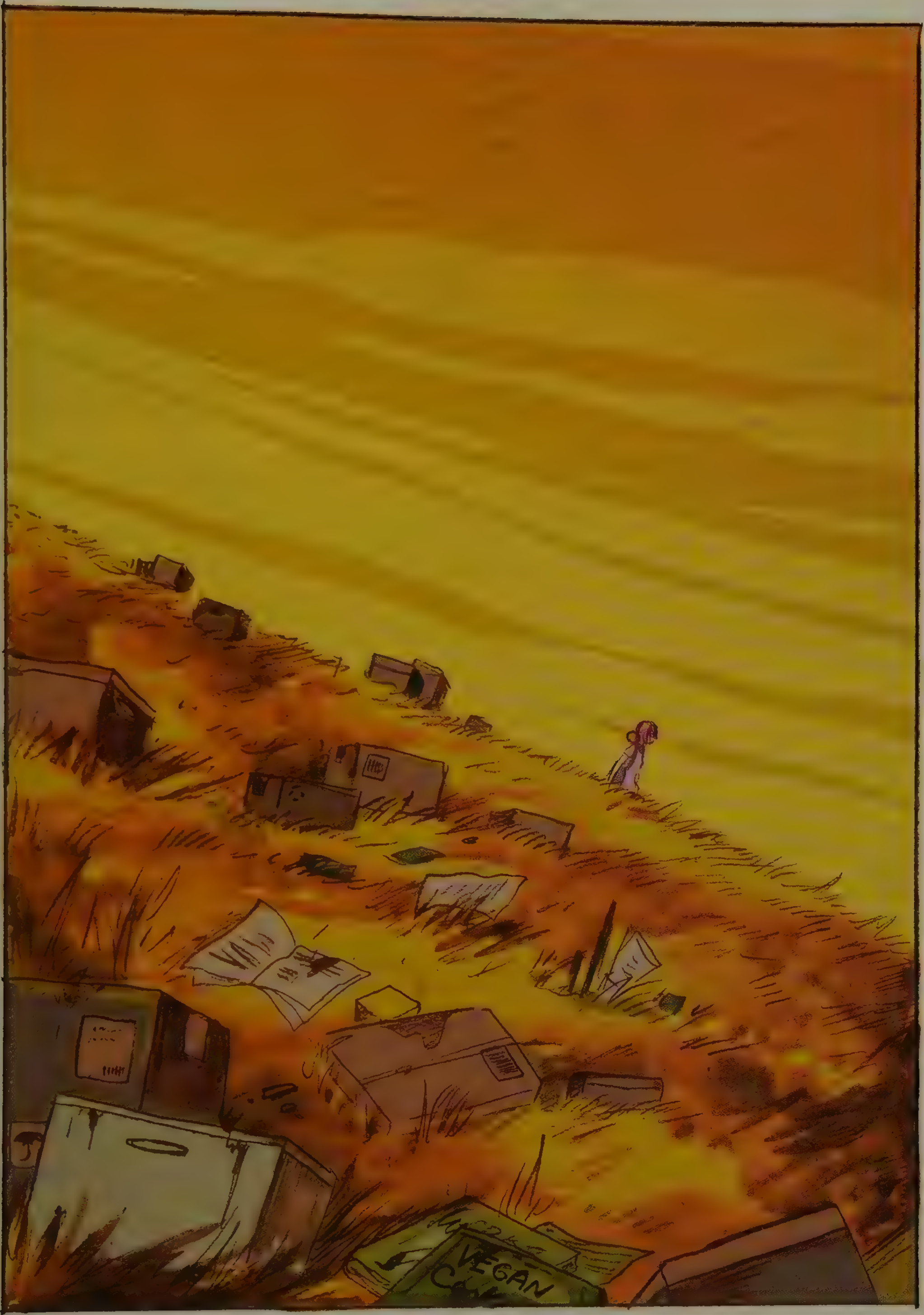

WAM

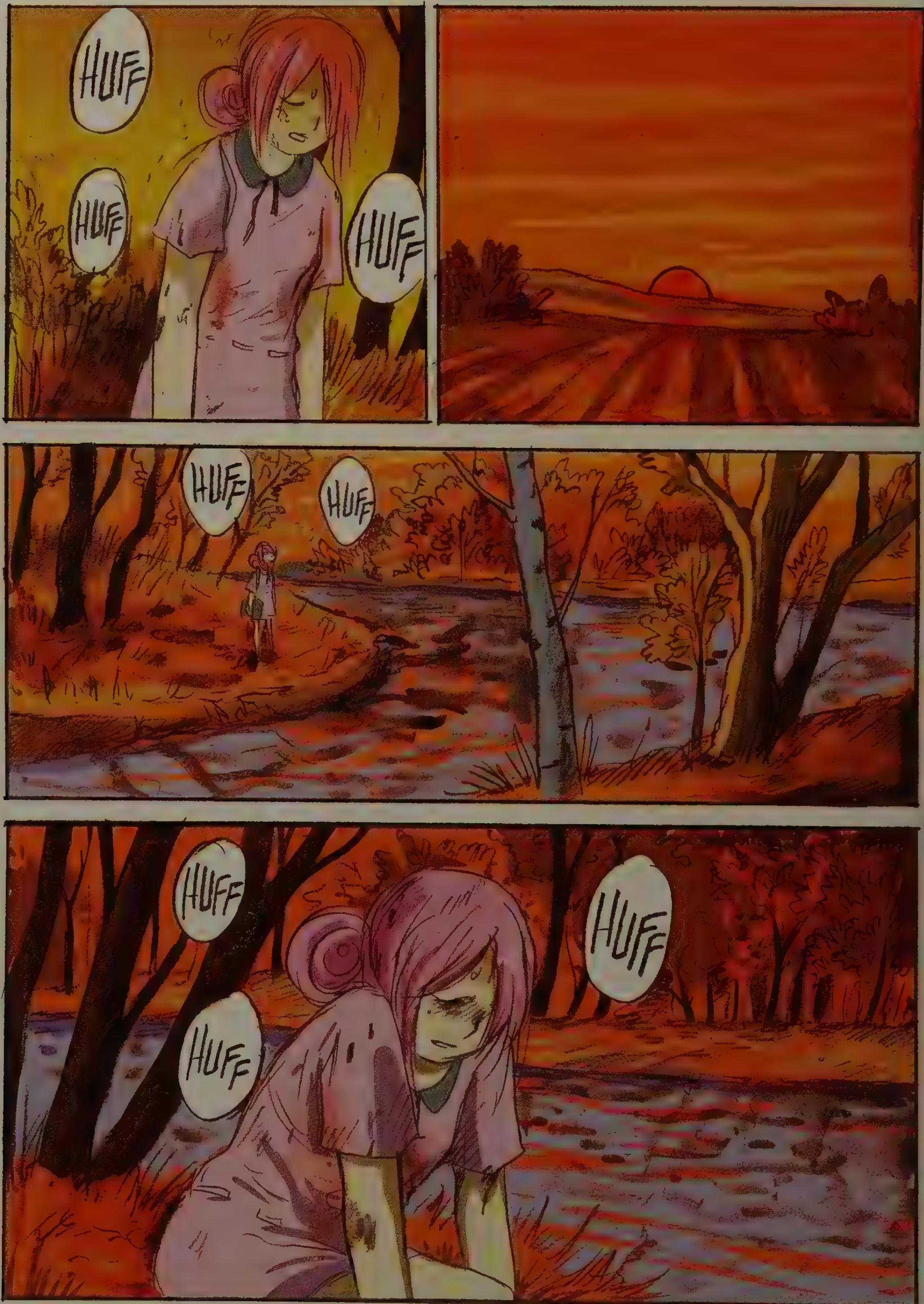

AAA
AAAHHHHHH!
...

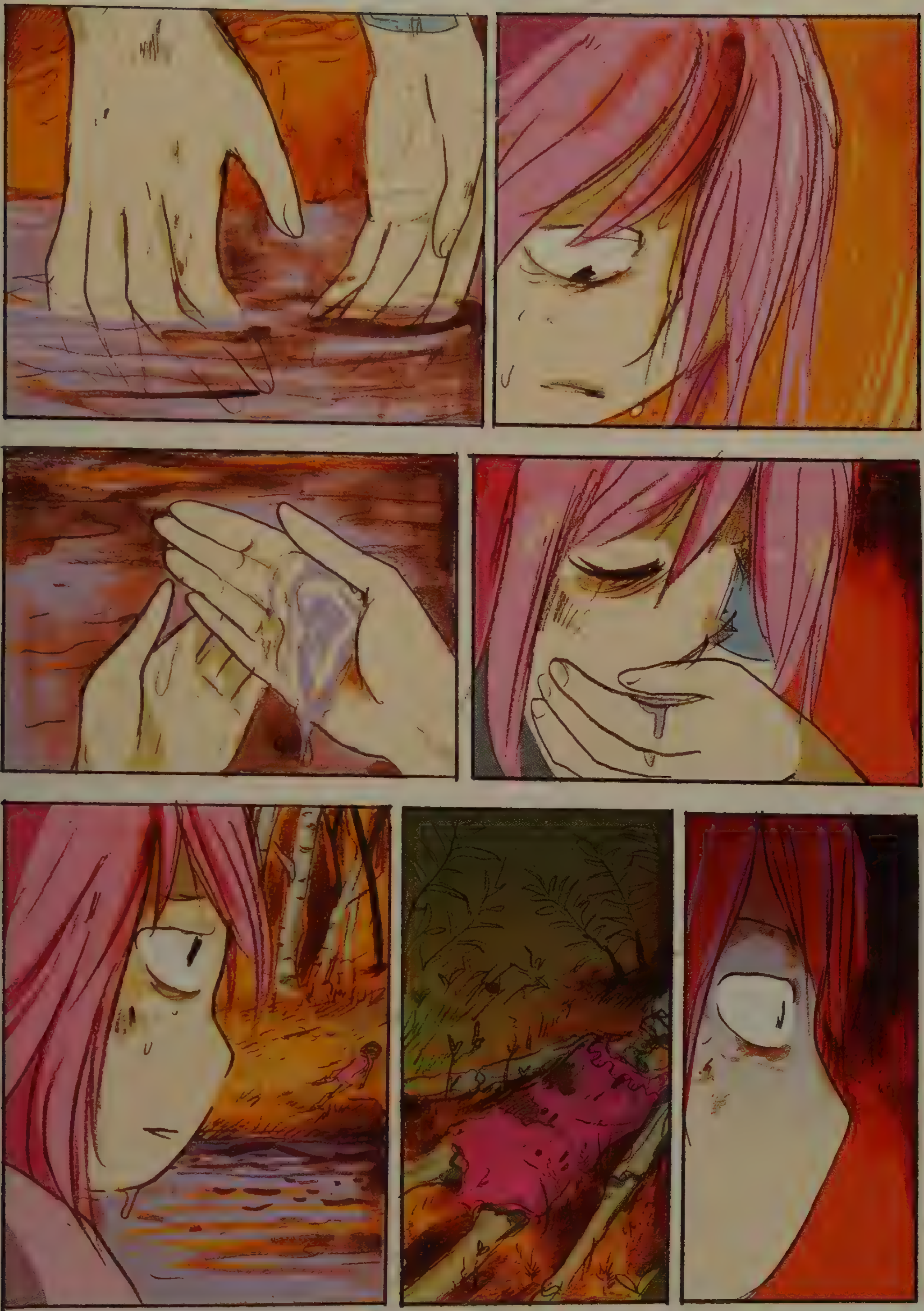

What did I do?
HRRRRRR

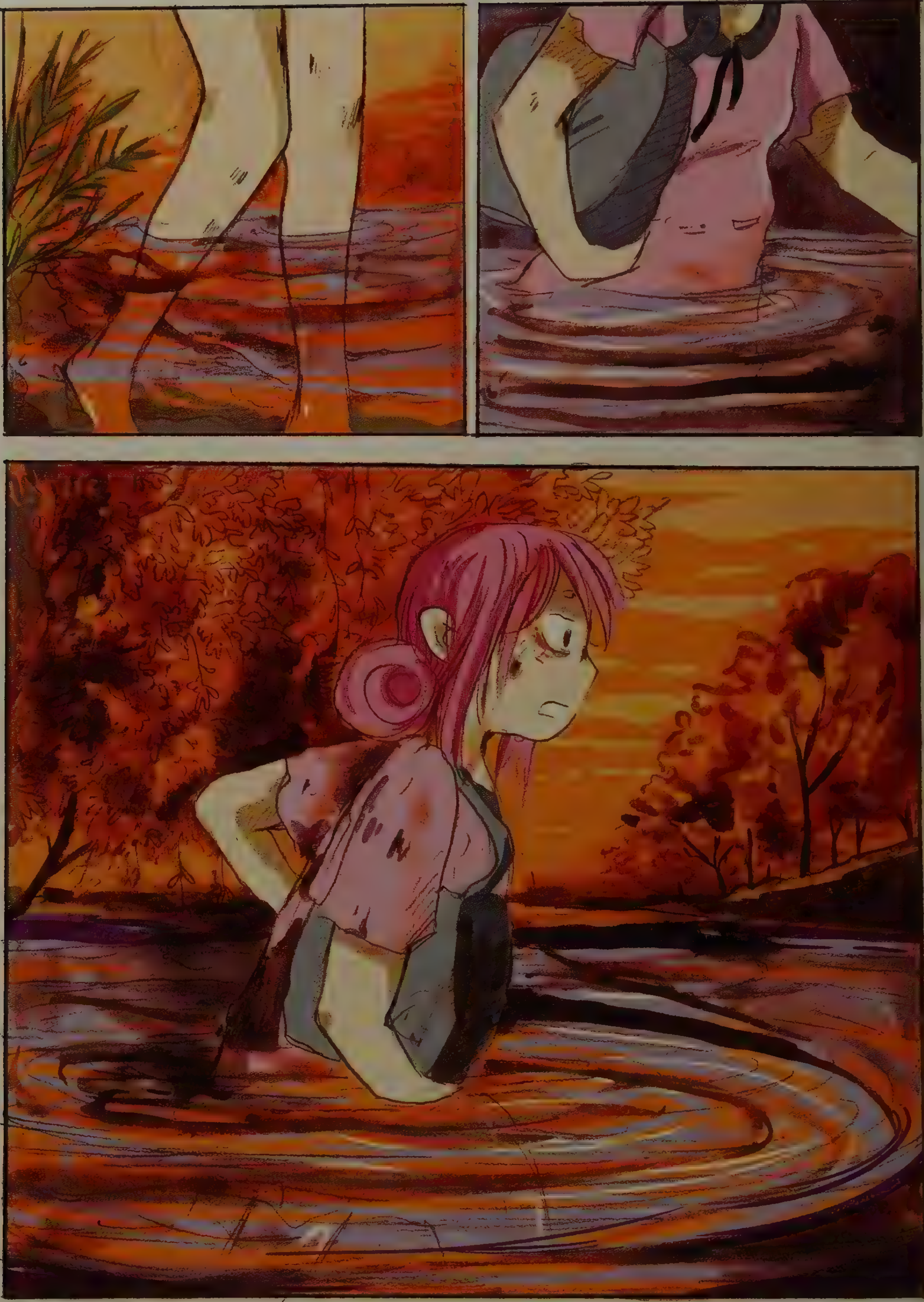

That was your master upstairs, huh?
Your friend . . .
I'm sorry.
Do you . . . wanna come with me?

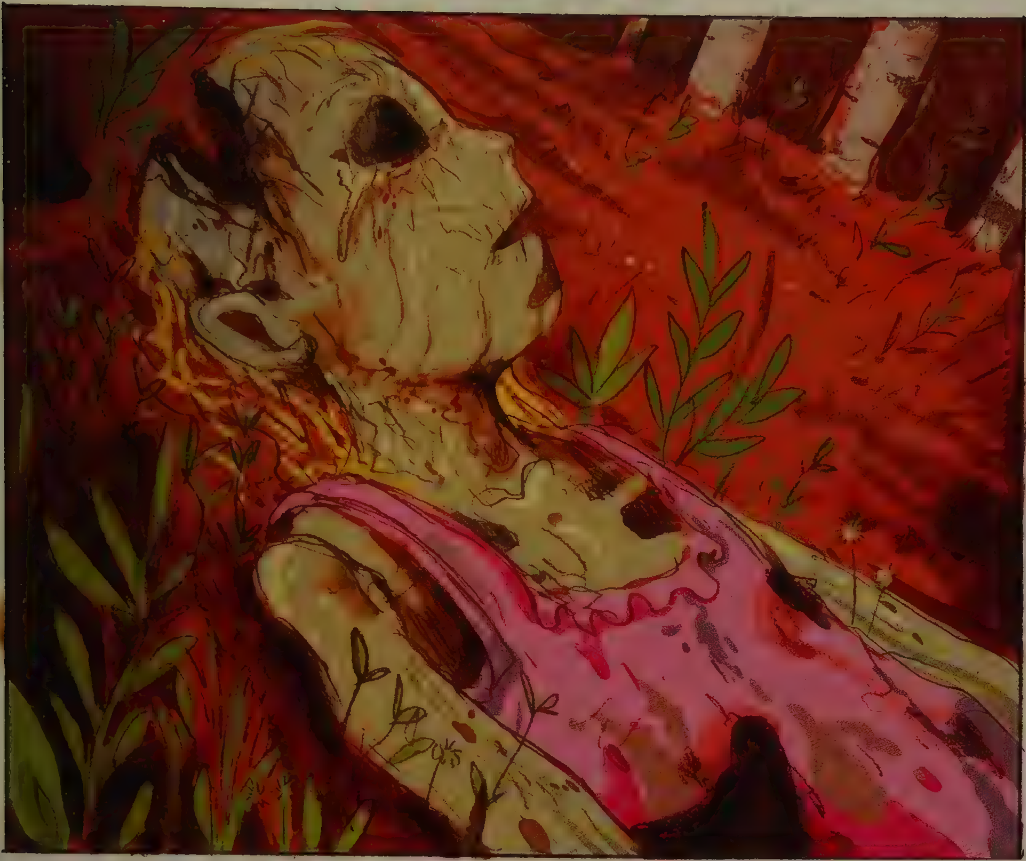

Well, goodbye.
And don't be mad at me.
Sunny's Shoe Shop

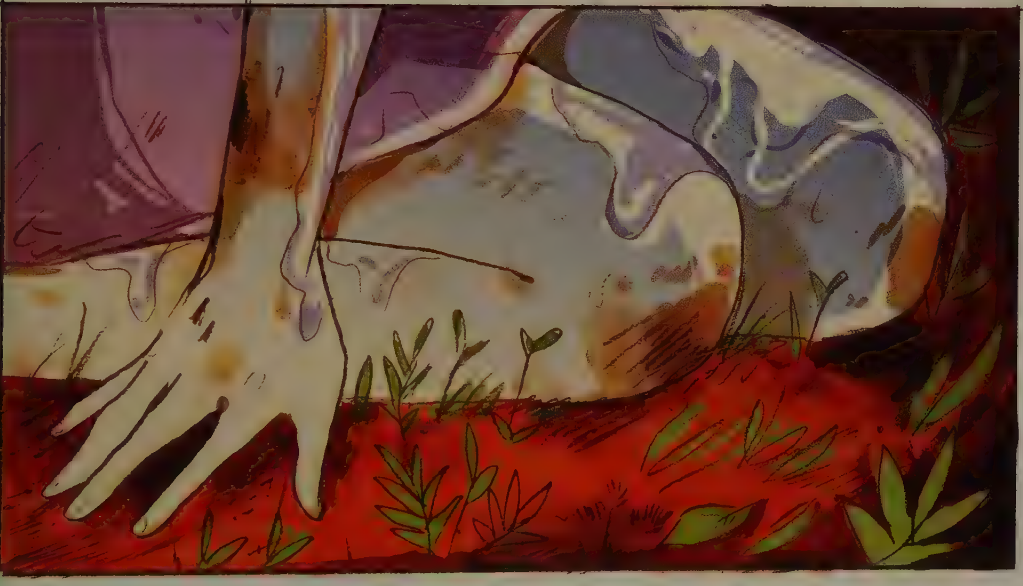

VEGAN

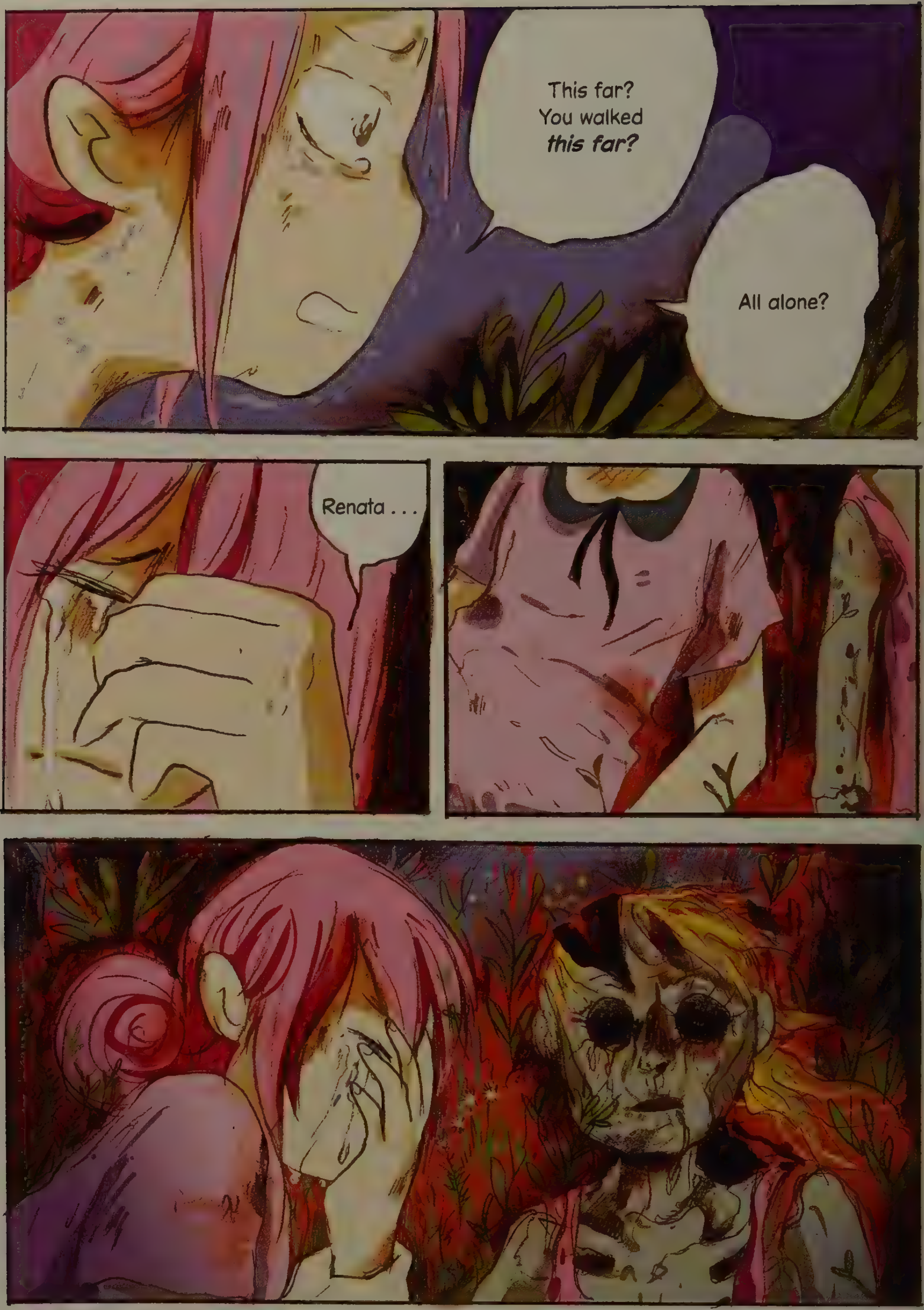

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

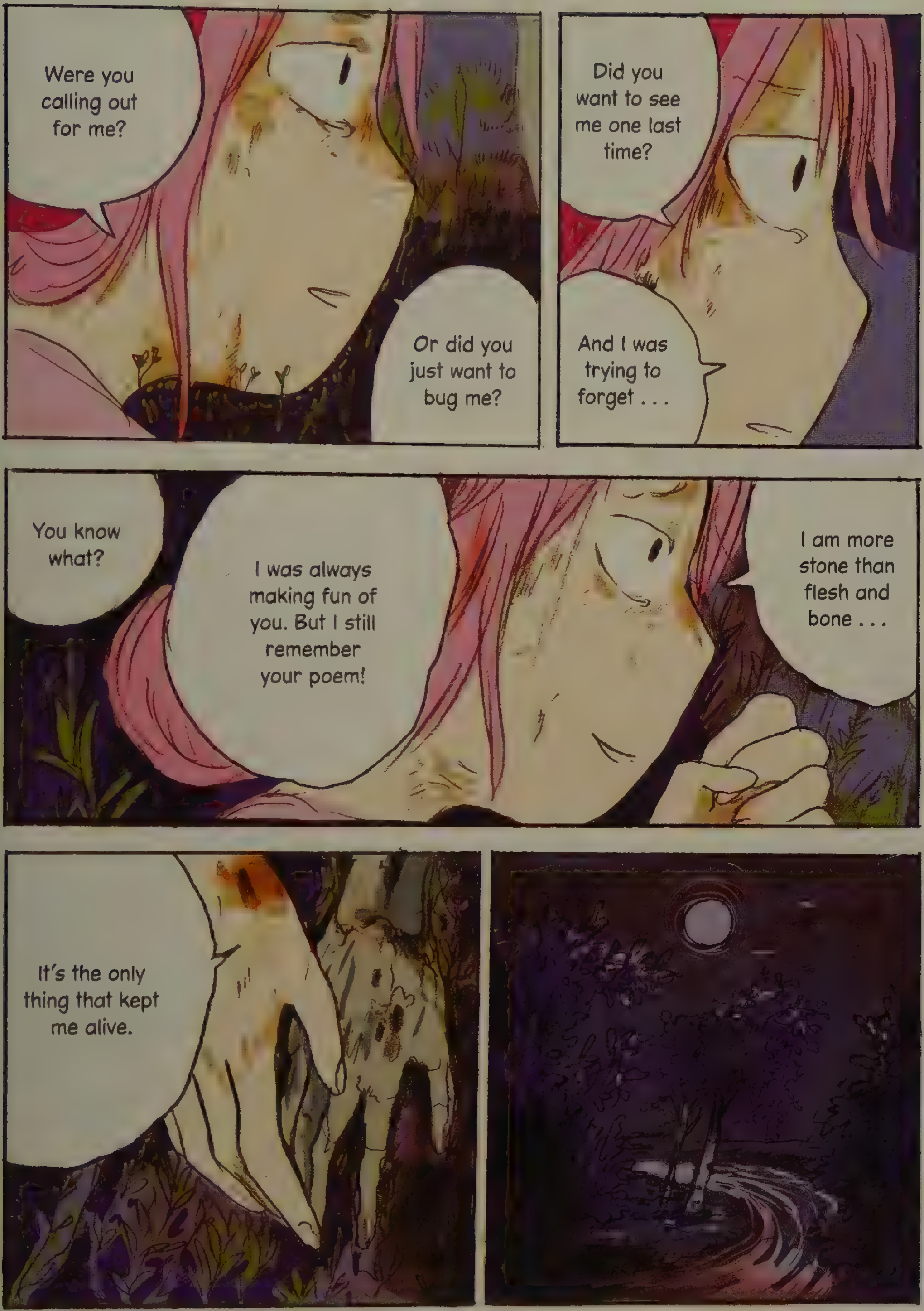


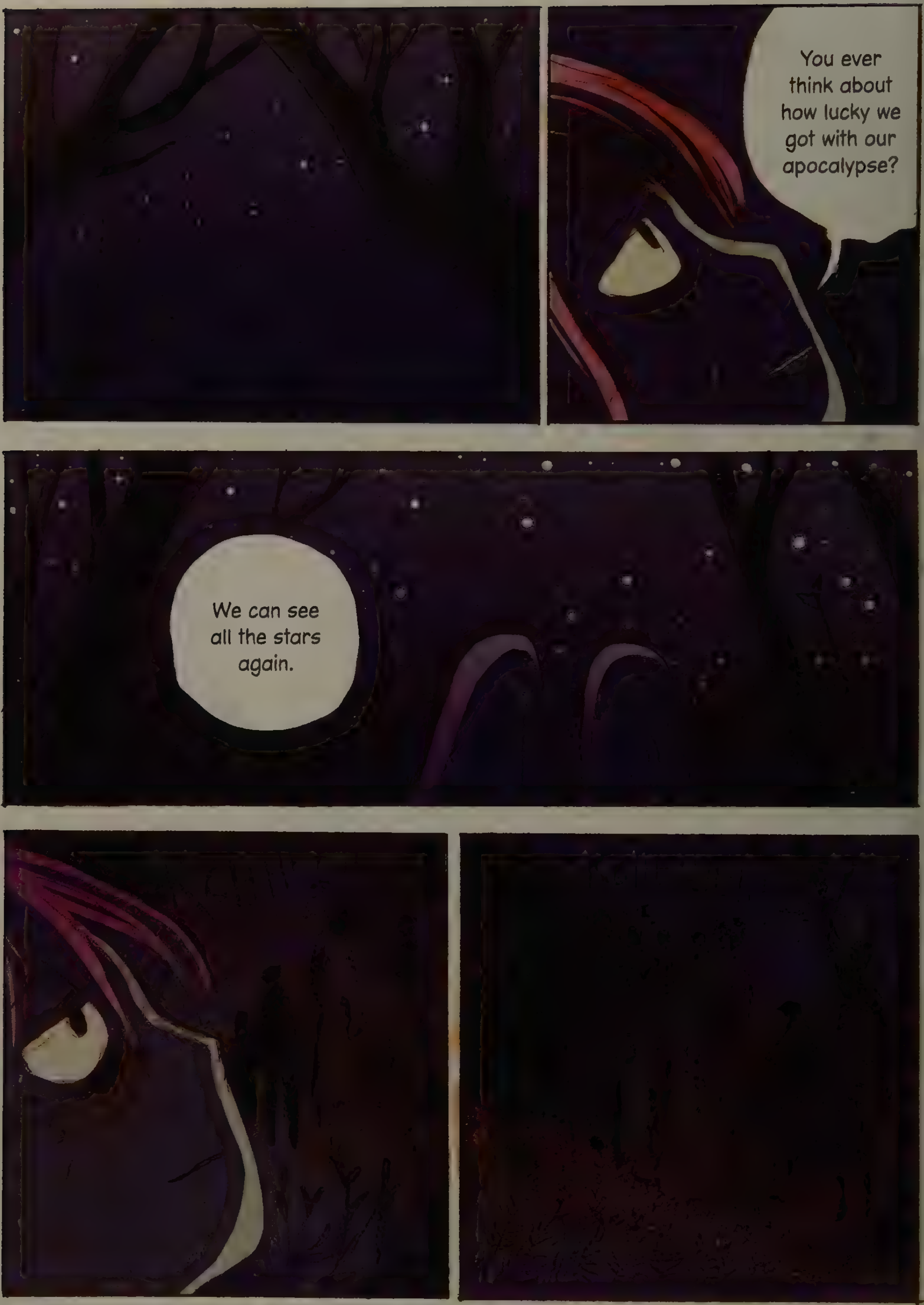


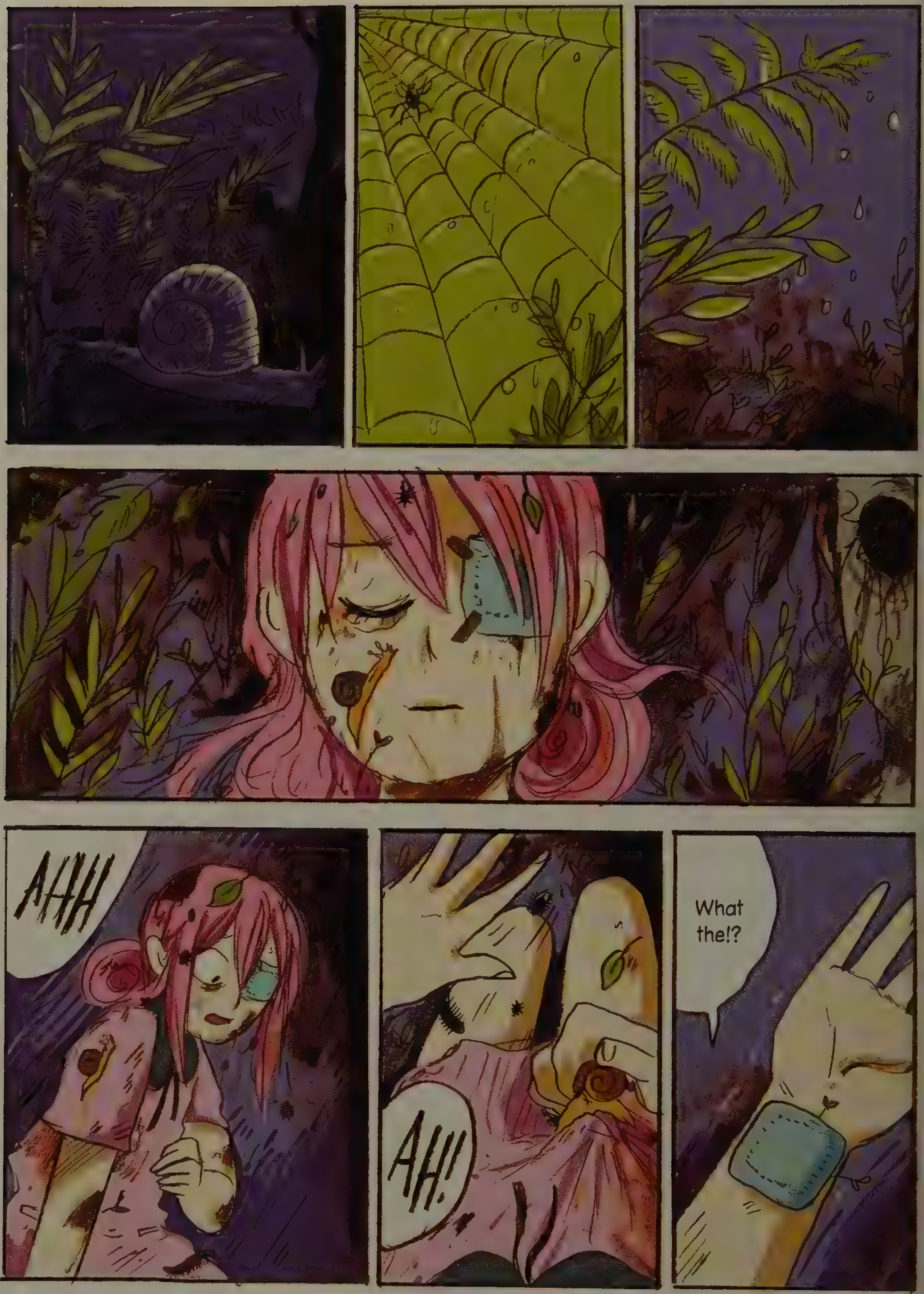


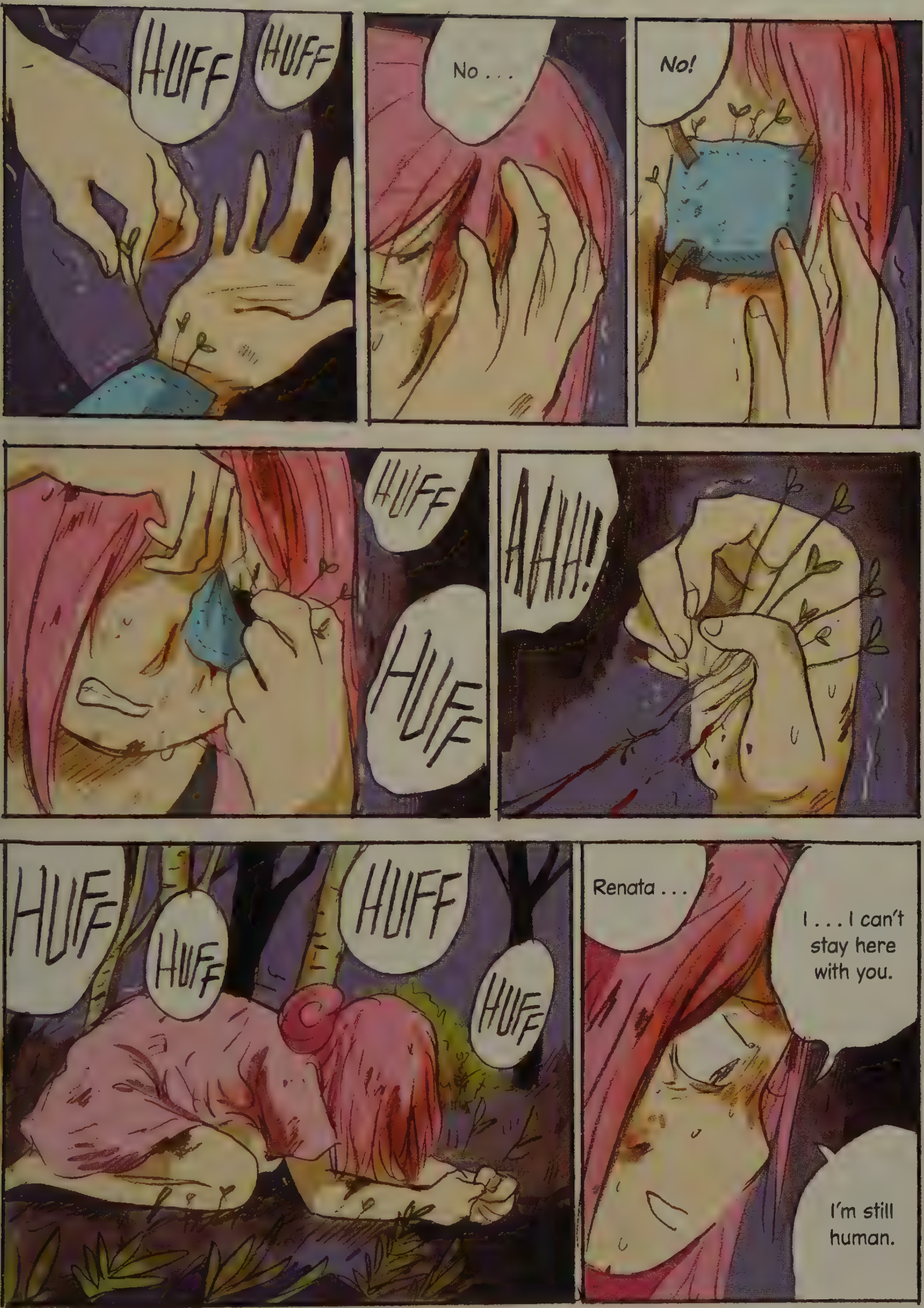


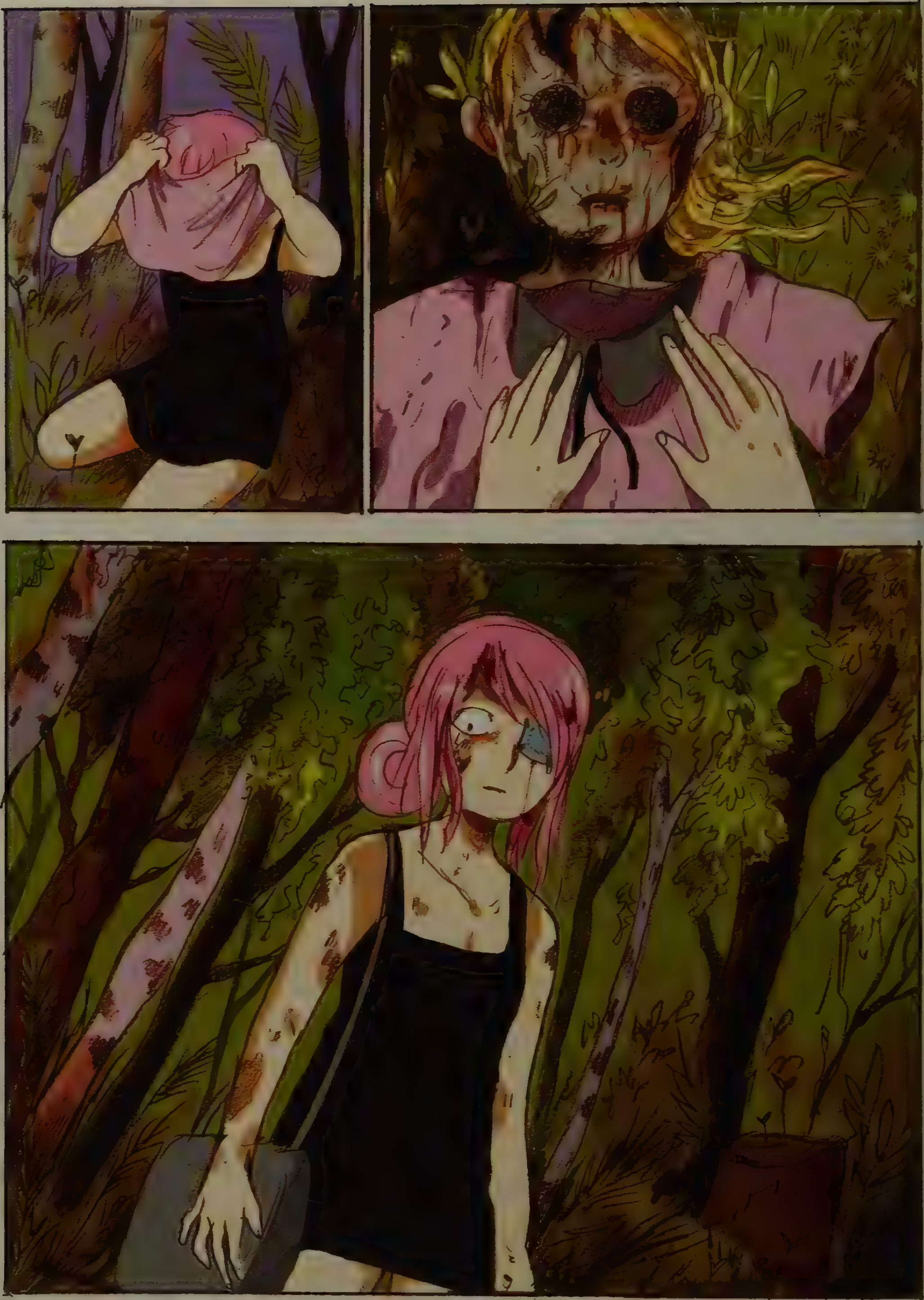

This far?
You walked
this far?
All alone?
Renata . . .

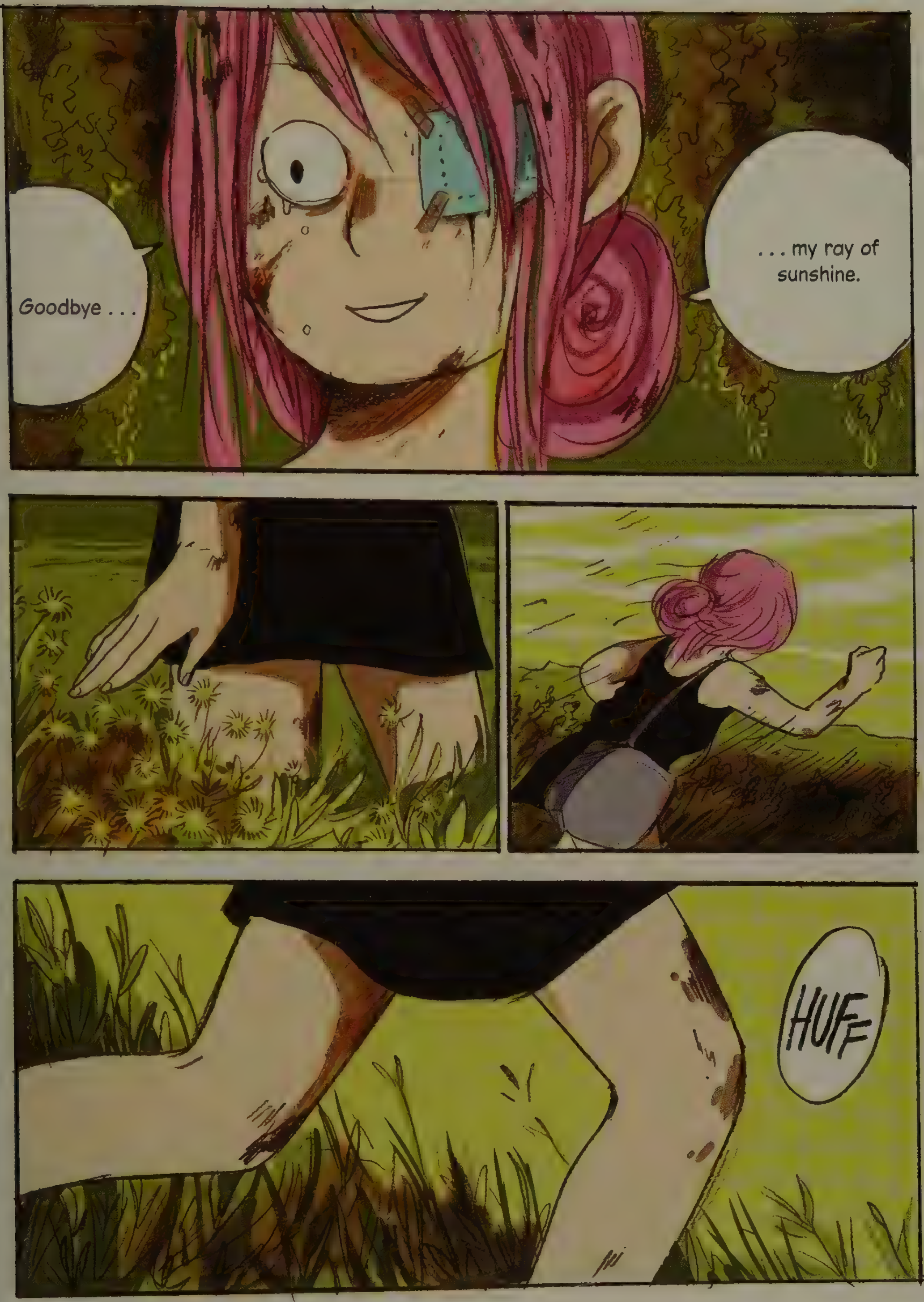

Were you calling out for me?
Or did you just want to bug me?
Did you want to see me one last time?
And I was trying to forget . . .
You know what?
I was always making fun of you. But I still remember your poem!
I am more stone than flesh and bone . . .
It's the only thing that kept me alive.

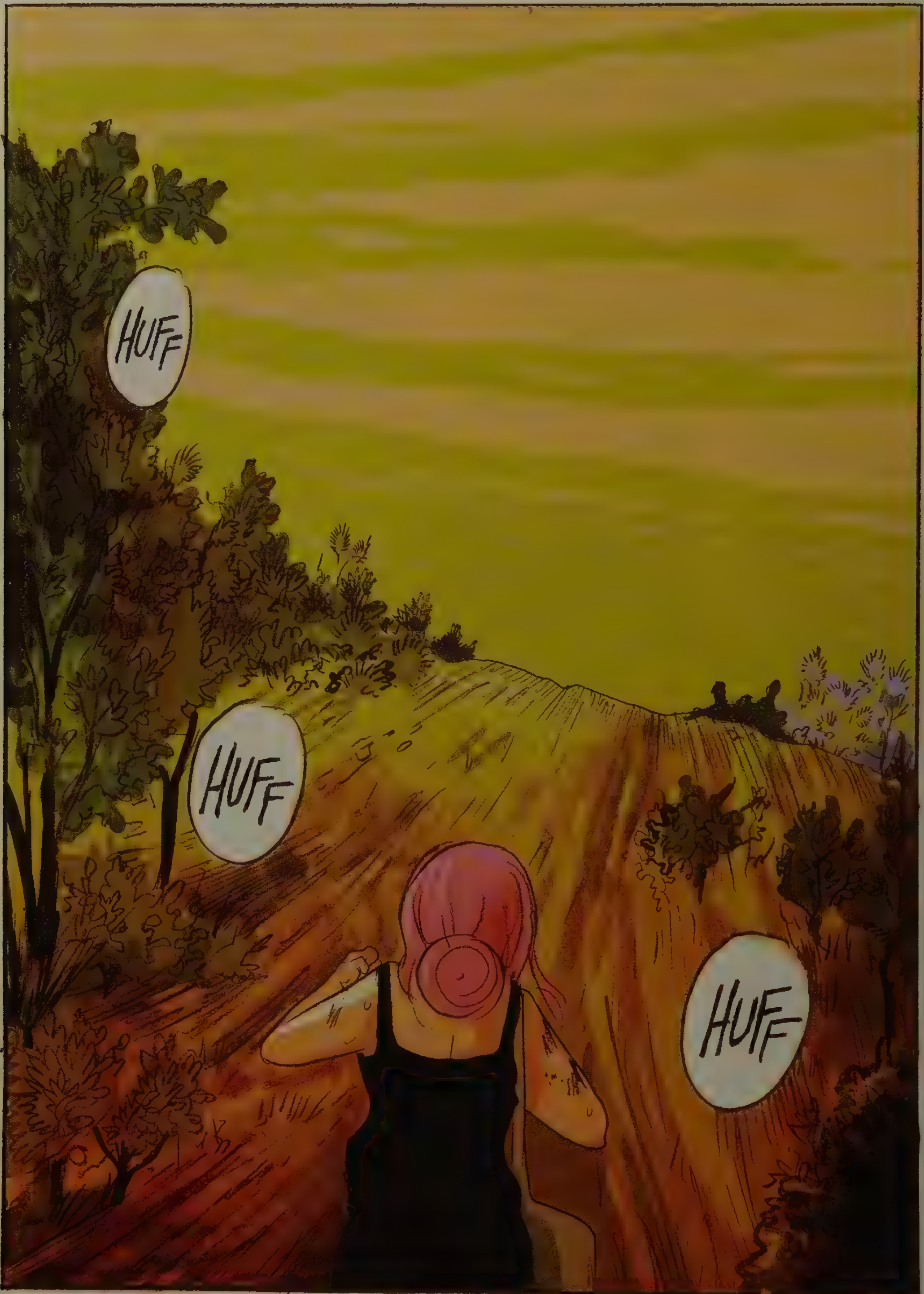

You ever think about how lucky we got with our apocalypse?
We can see all the stars again.

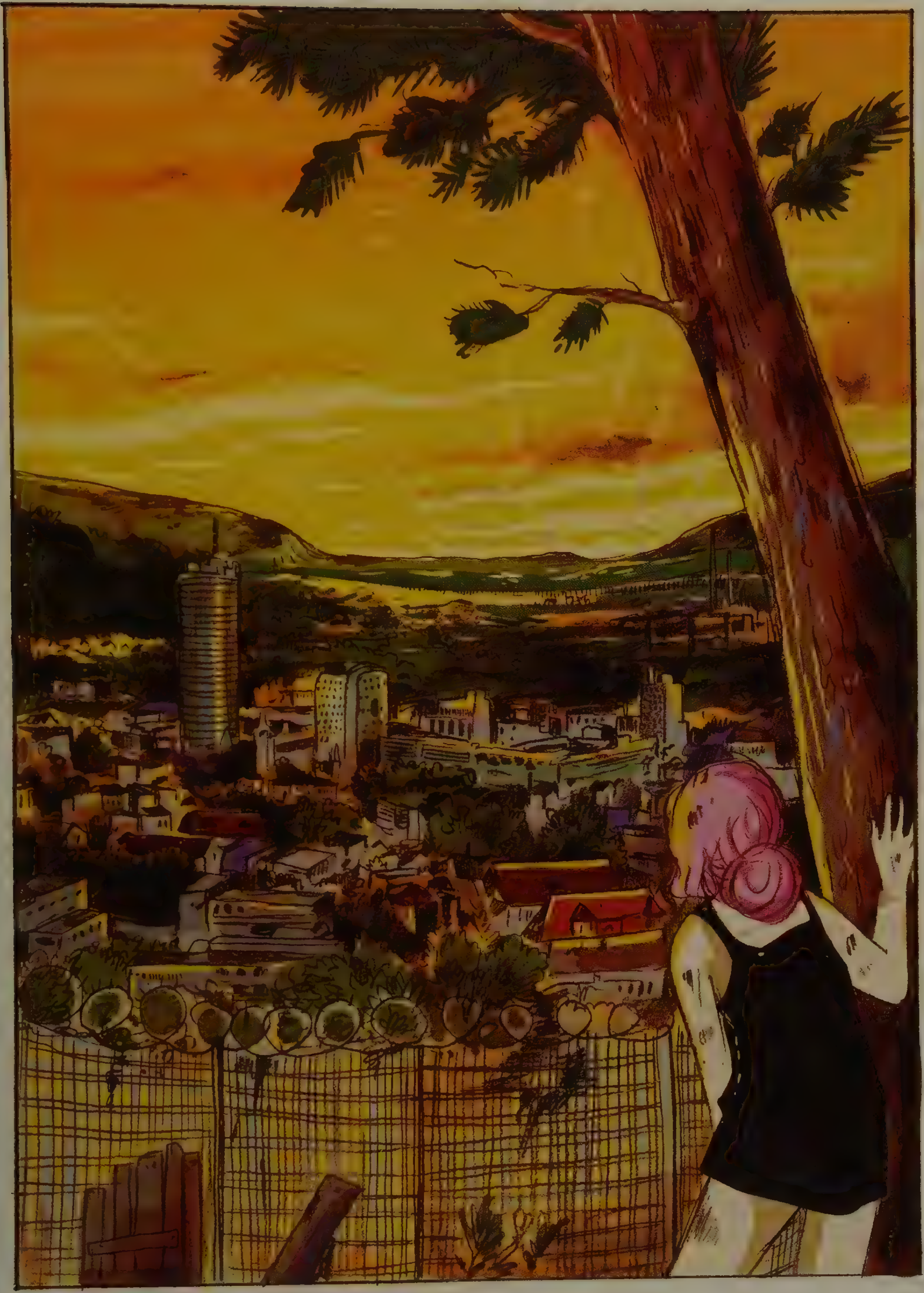

AHH
AH!
What the!?

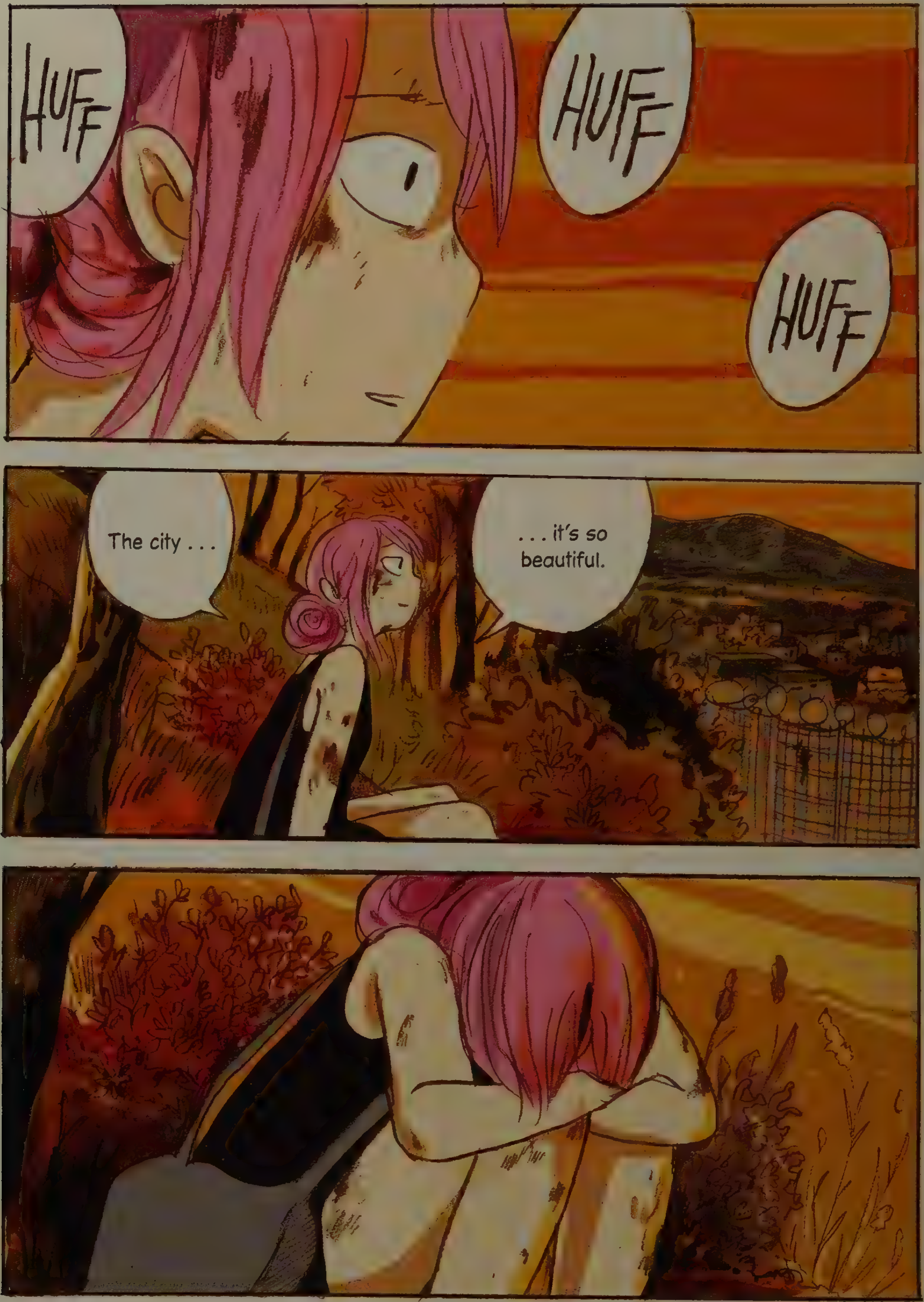

HUFF
HUFF
No . . .
No!
HUFF
HUFF
AHHH!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Renata . . .
I . . . I can't stay here with you.
I'm still human.

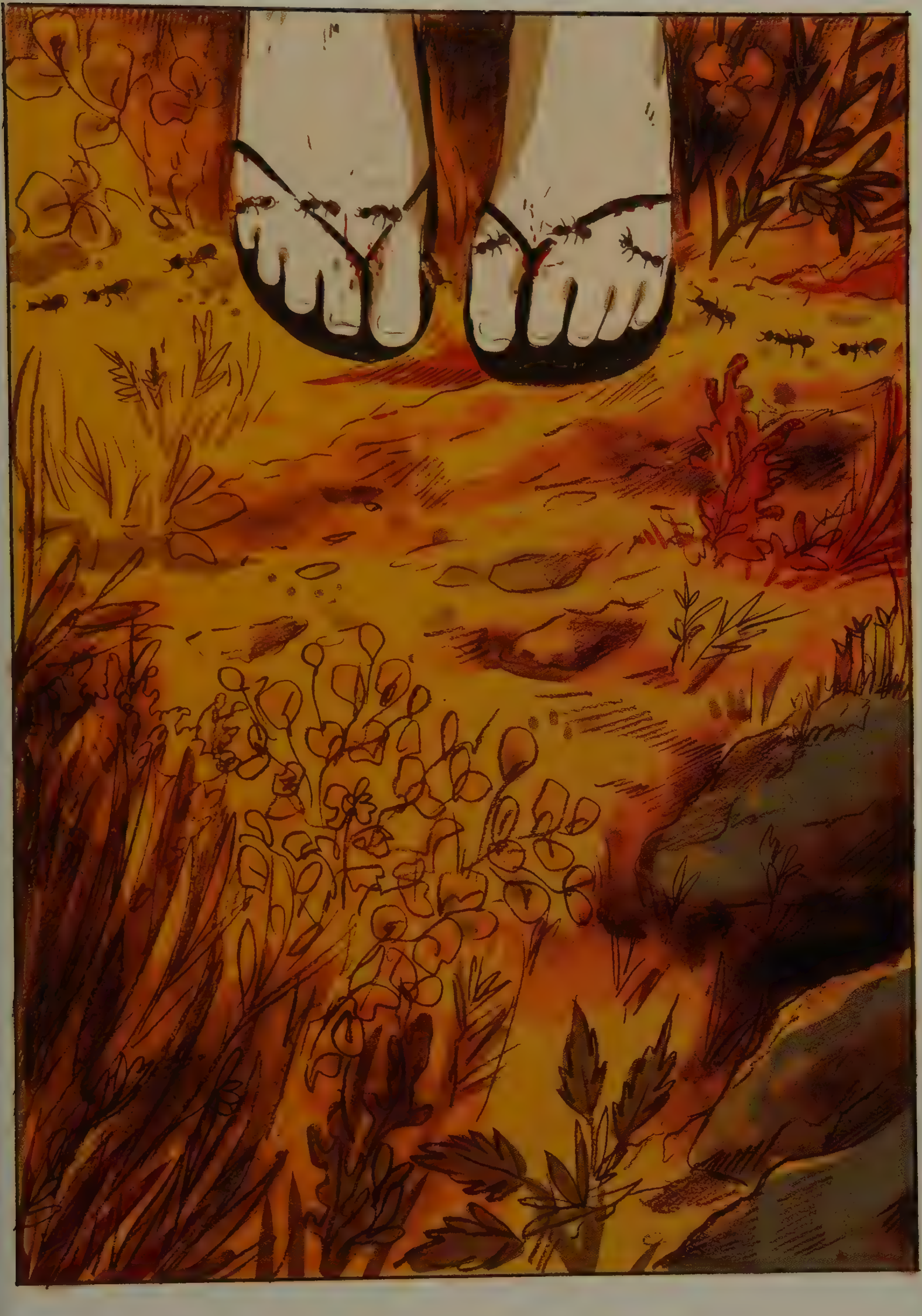


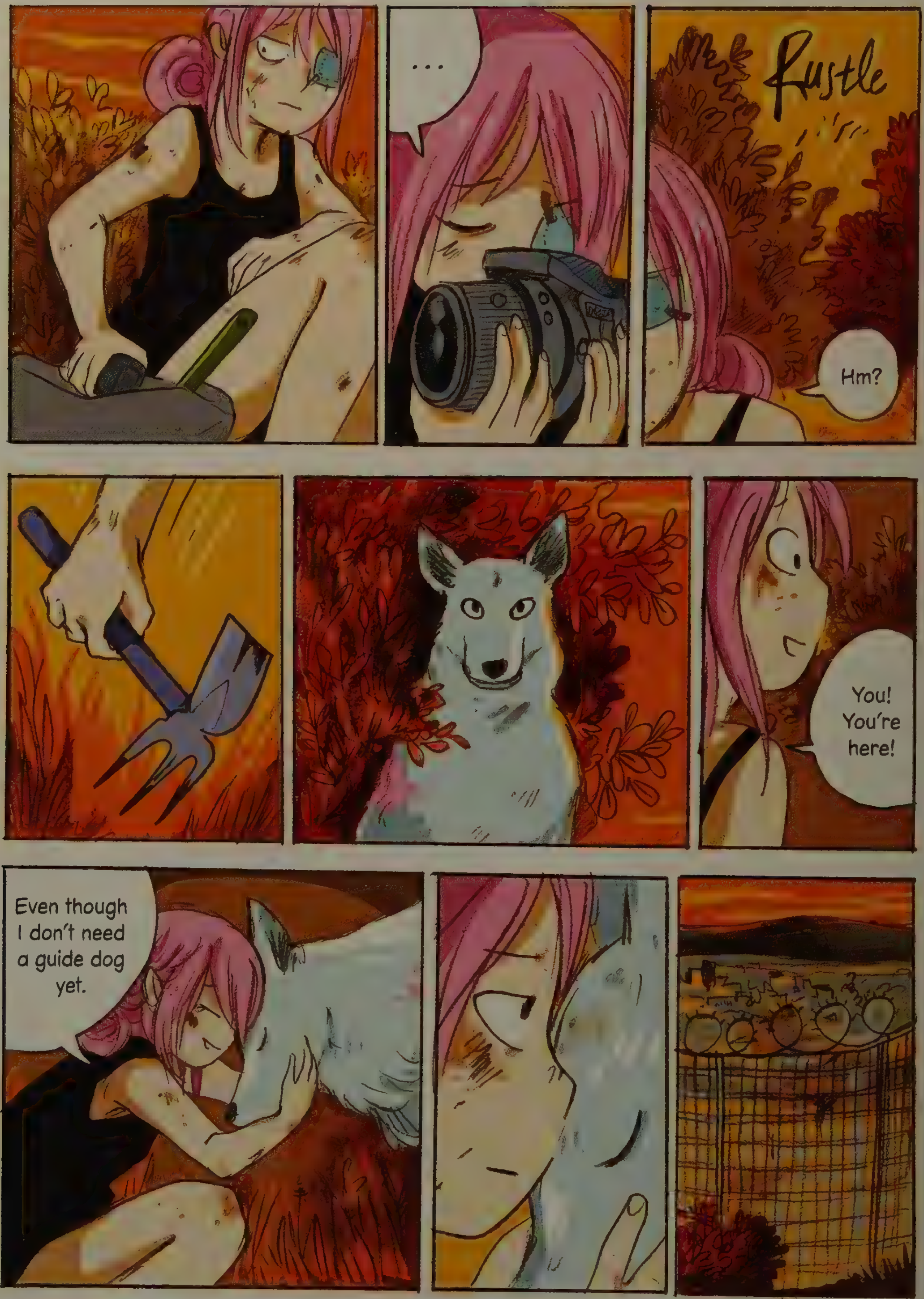

Goodbye . . .
. . . my ray of sunshine.
HUFF

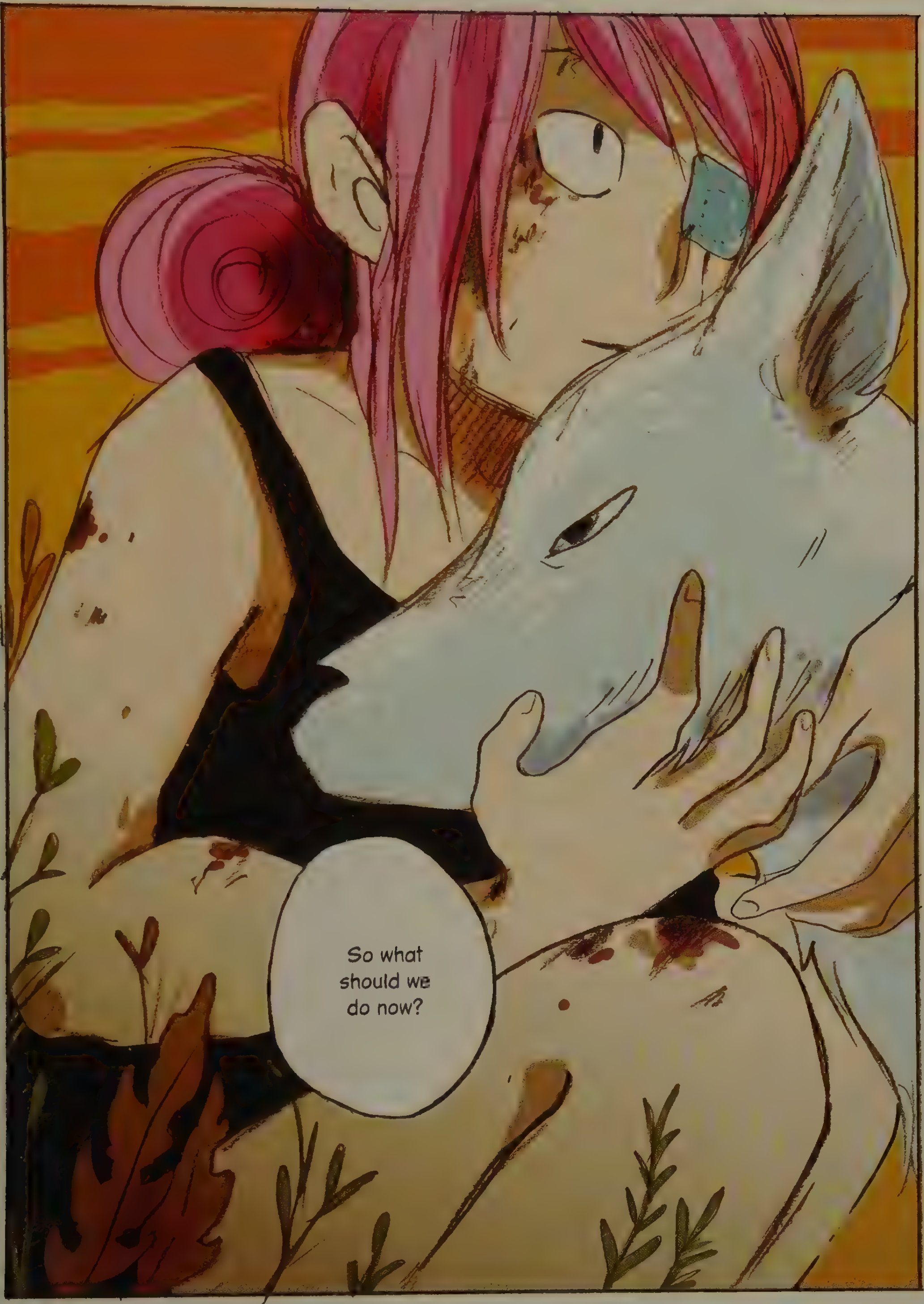

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

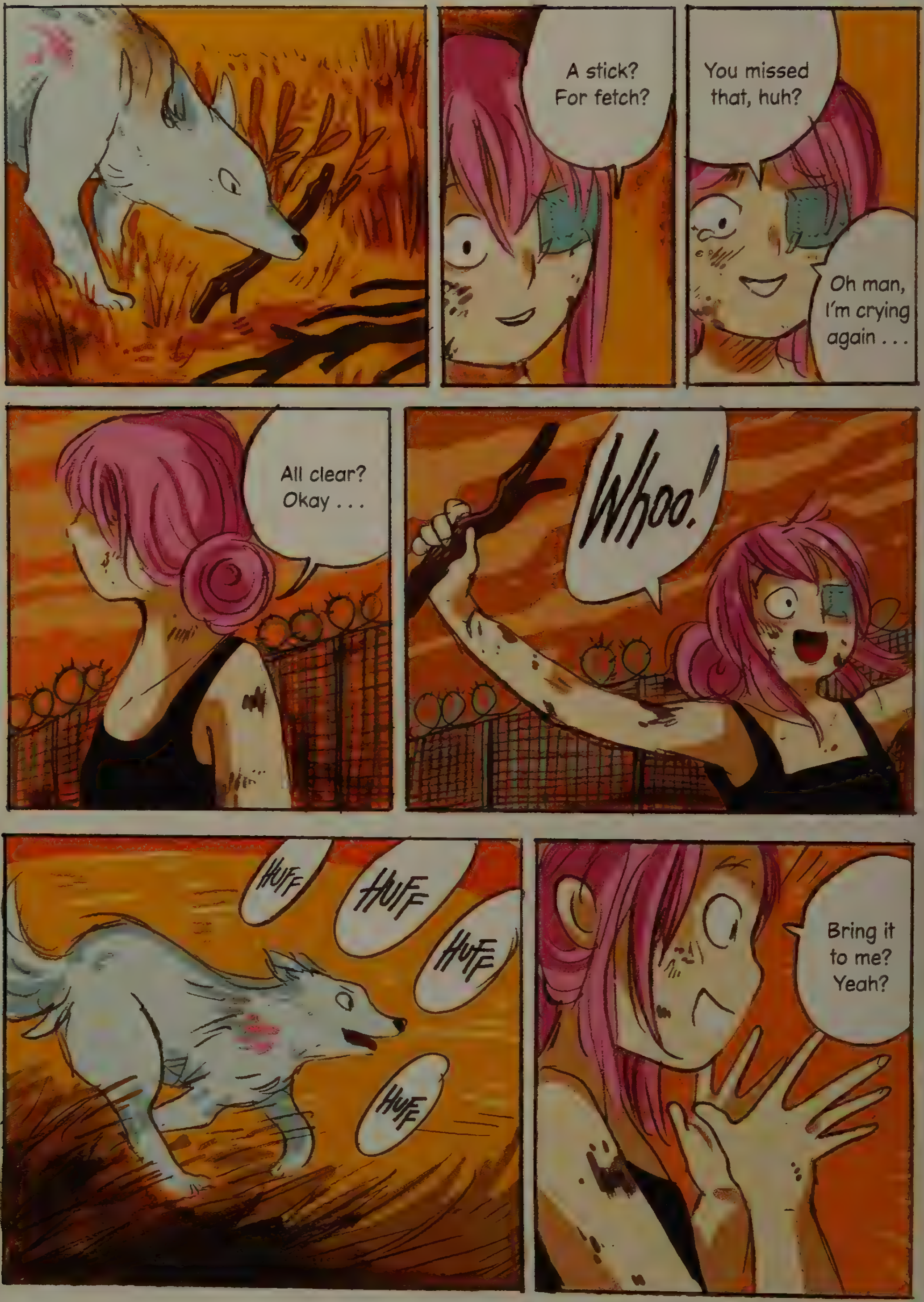


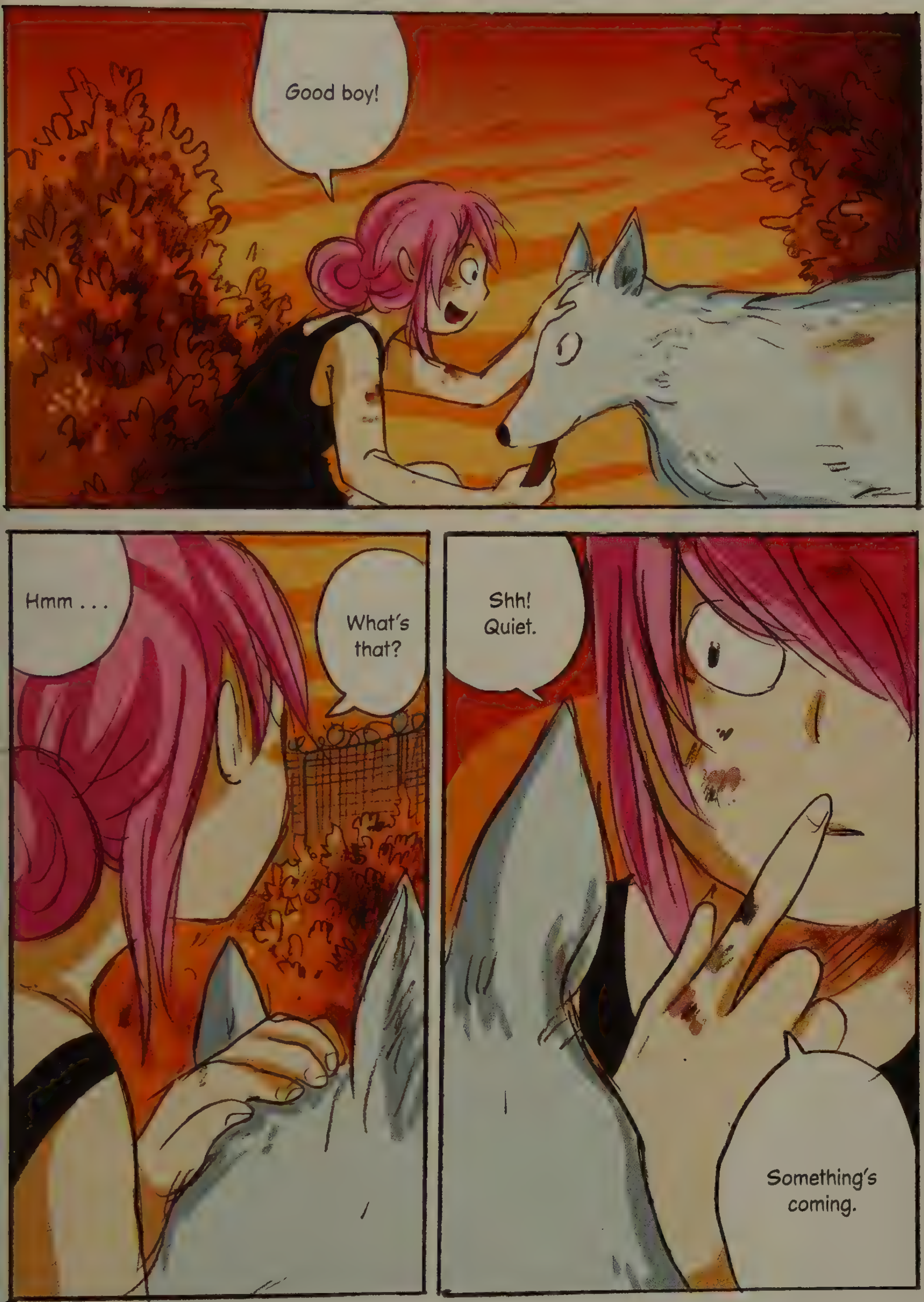

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
The city . . .
. . . it's so beautiful.

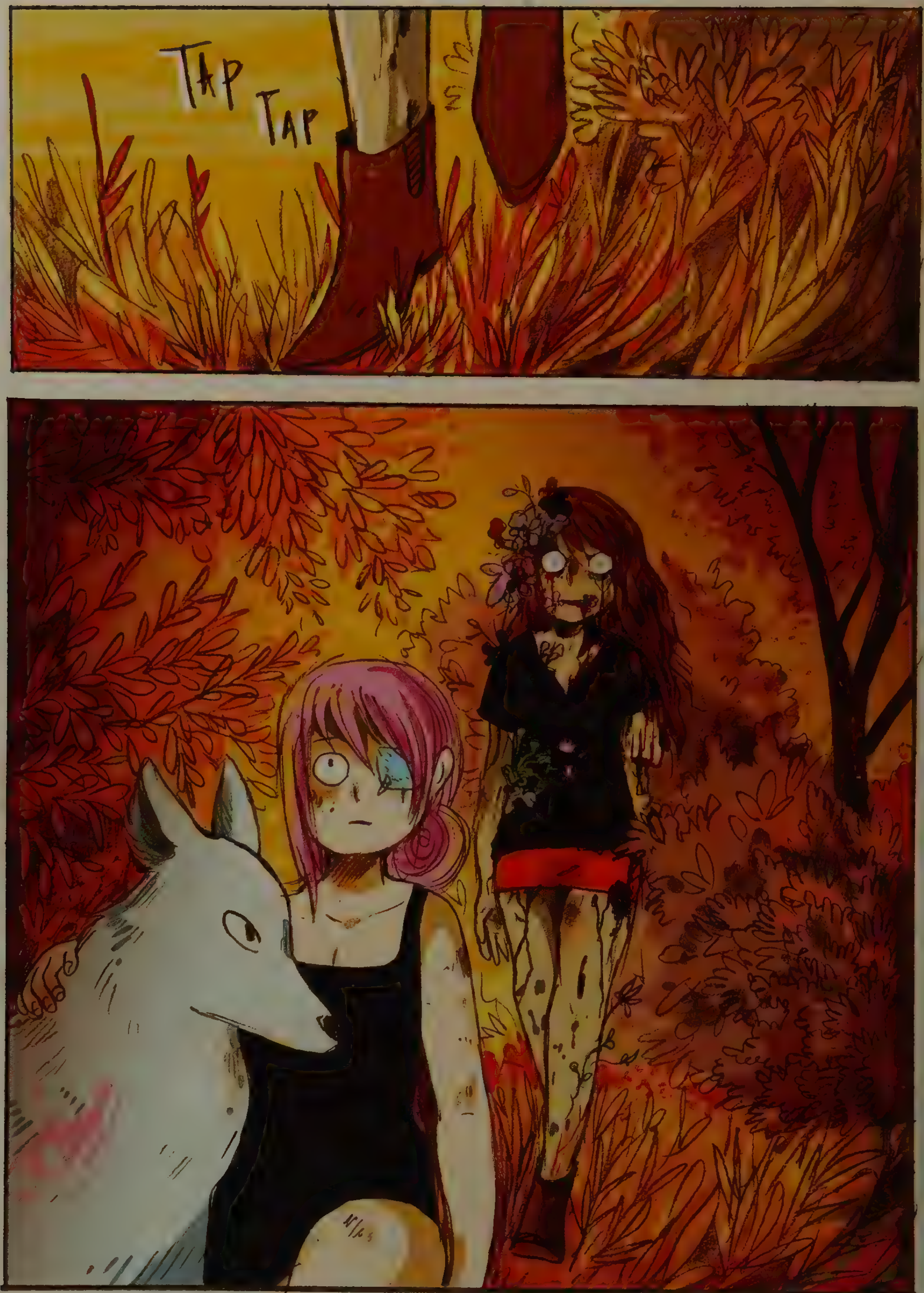


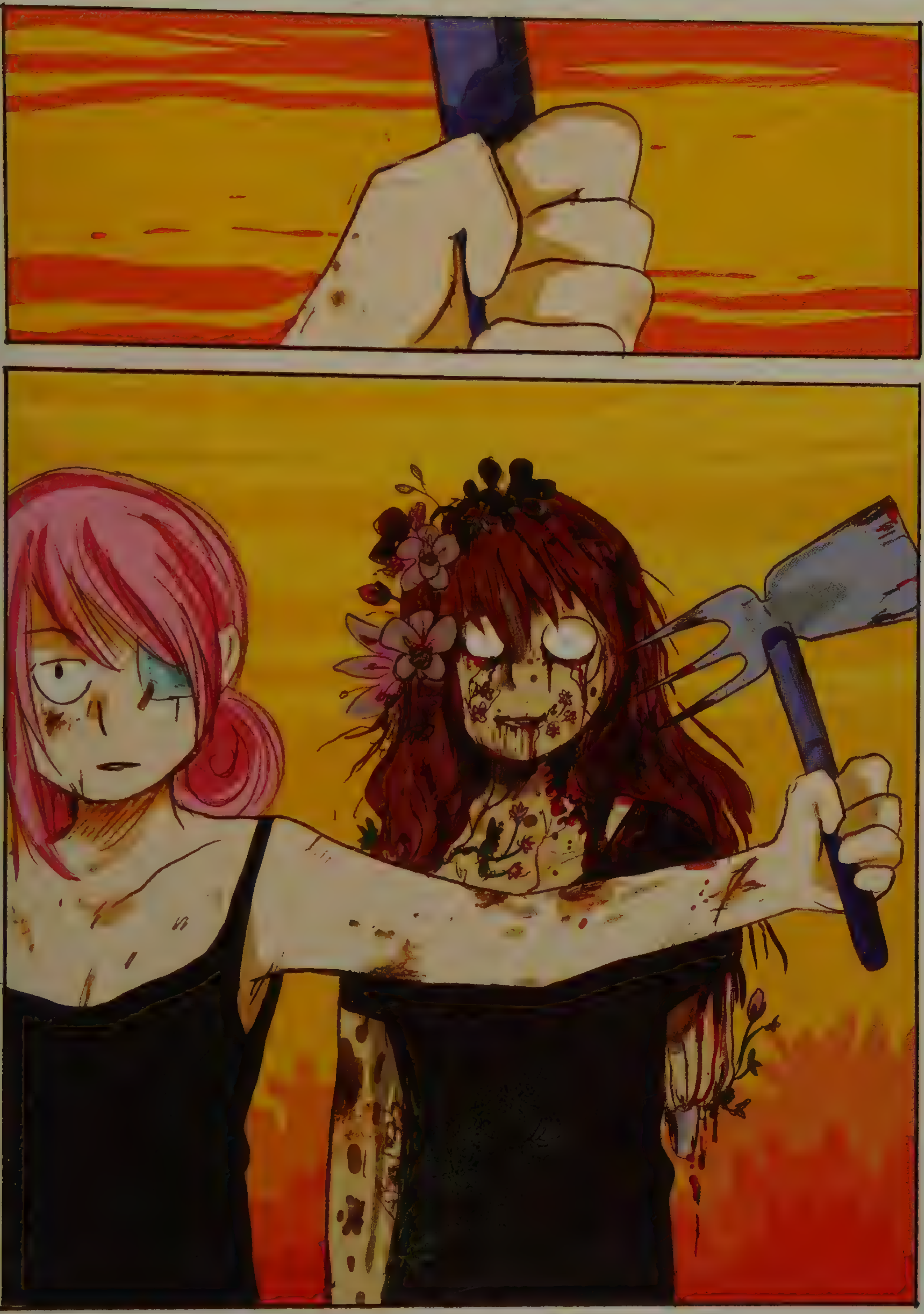

...
Rustle
Hm?
You! You're here!
Even though I don't need a guide dog yet.

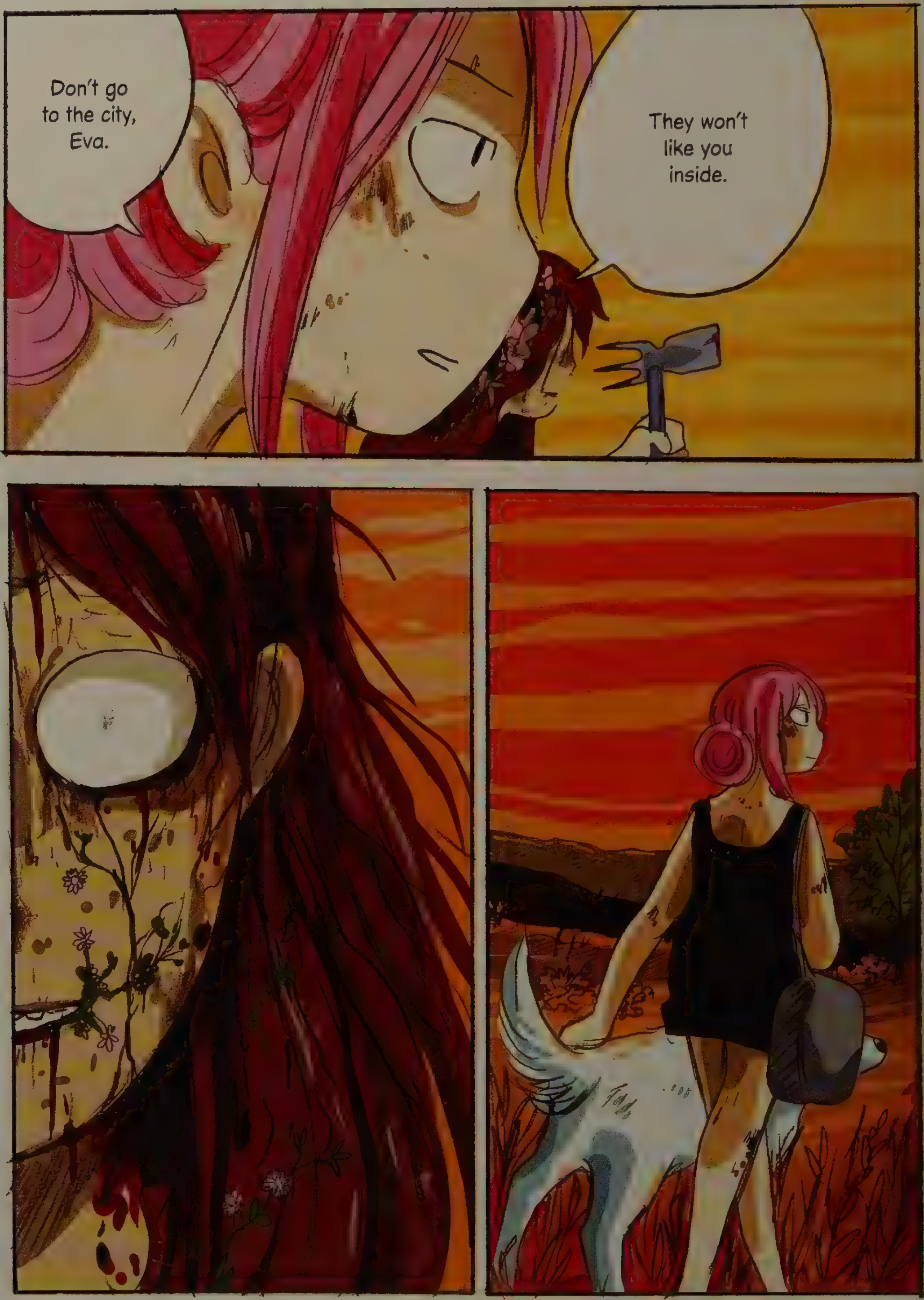

So what should we do now?

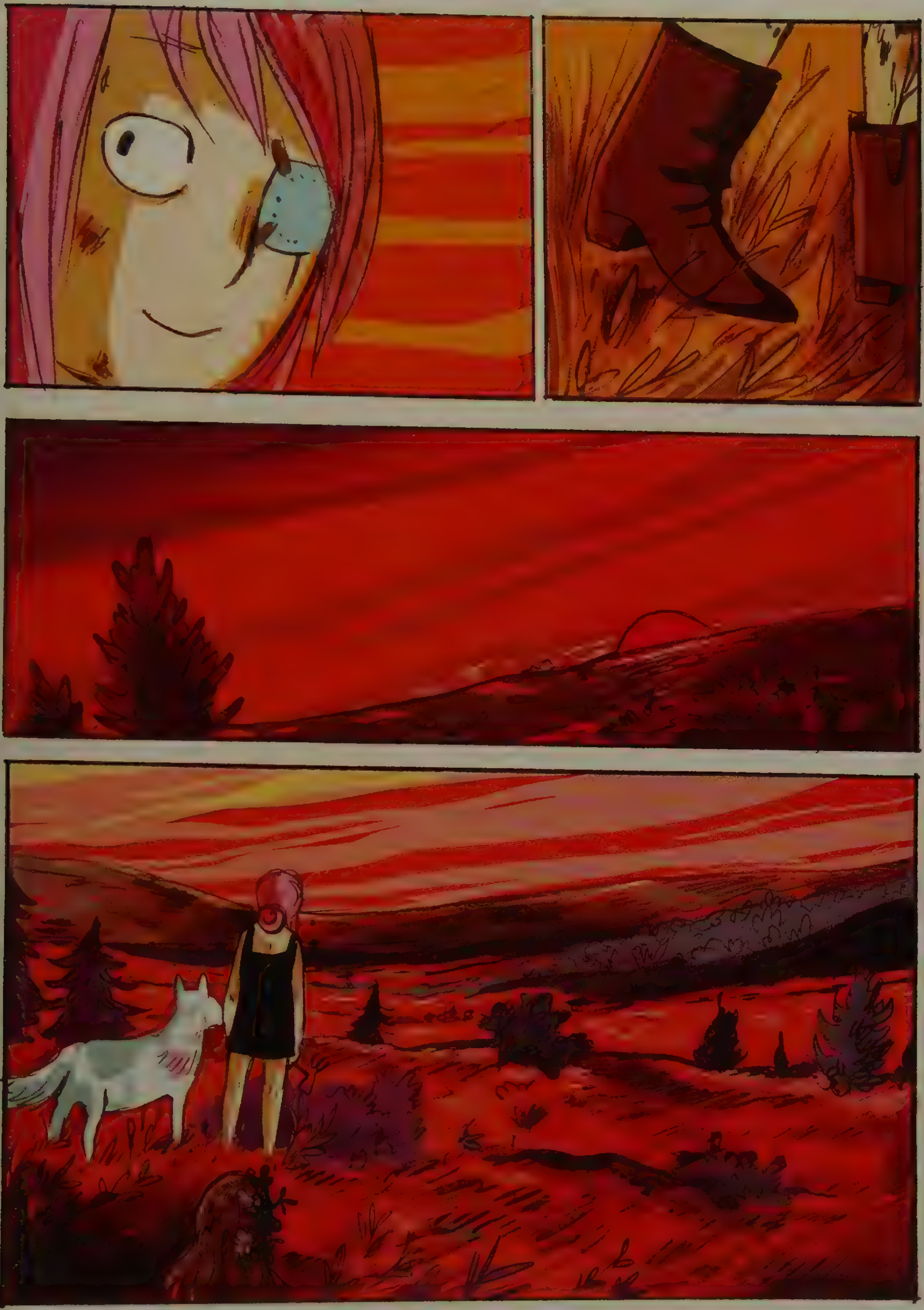

A stick? For fetch?
You missed that, huh?
Oh man, I'm crying again . . .
All clear? Okay . . .
Whoo!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Bring it to me? Yeah?

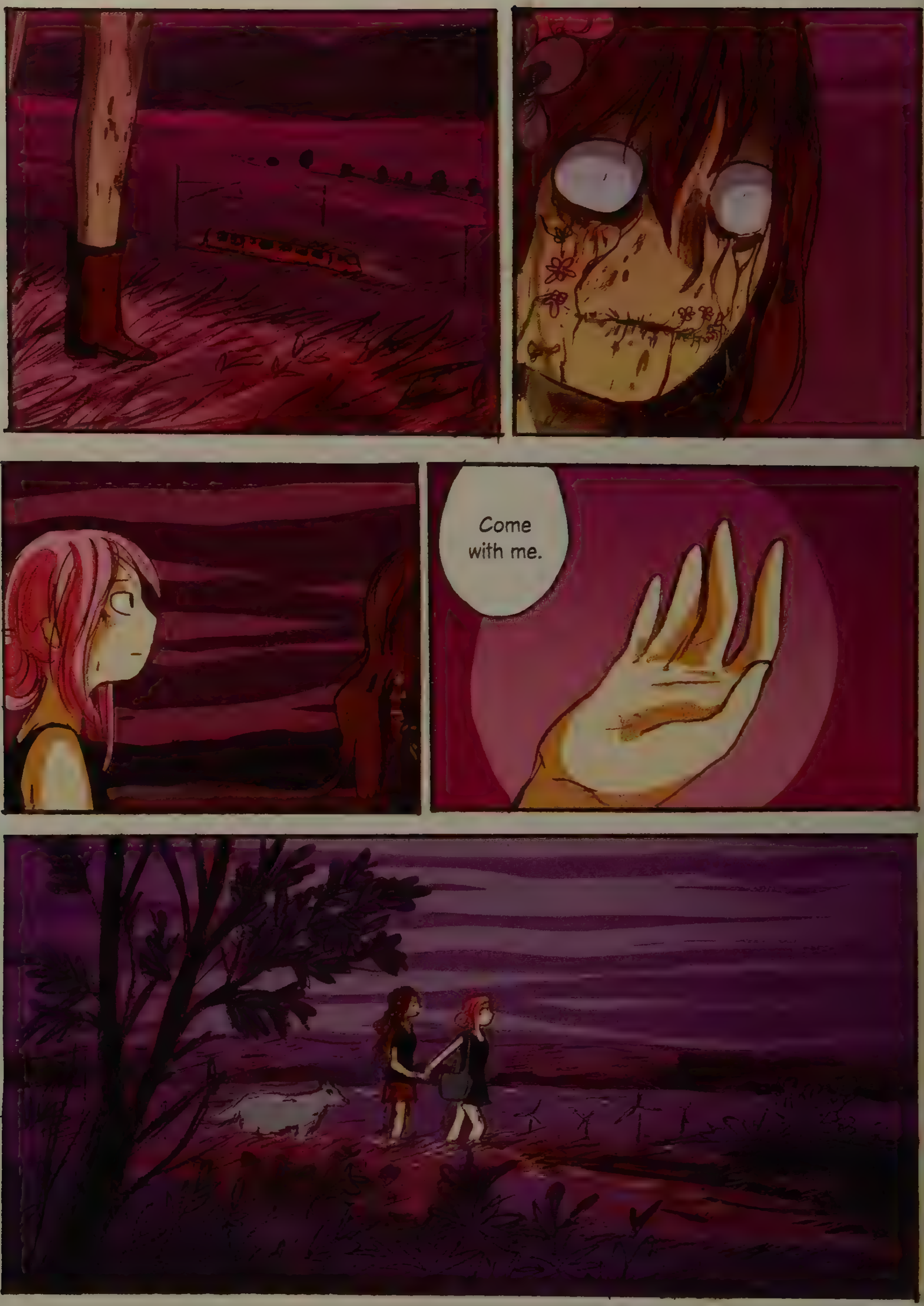

Good boy!
Hmm . . .
What's that?
Shh! Quiet.
Something's coming.

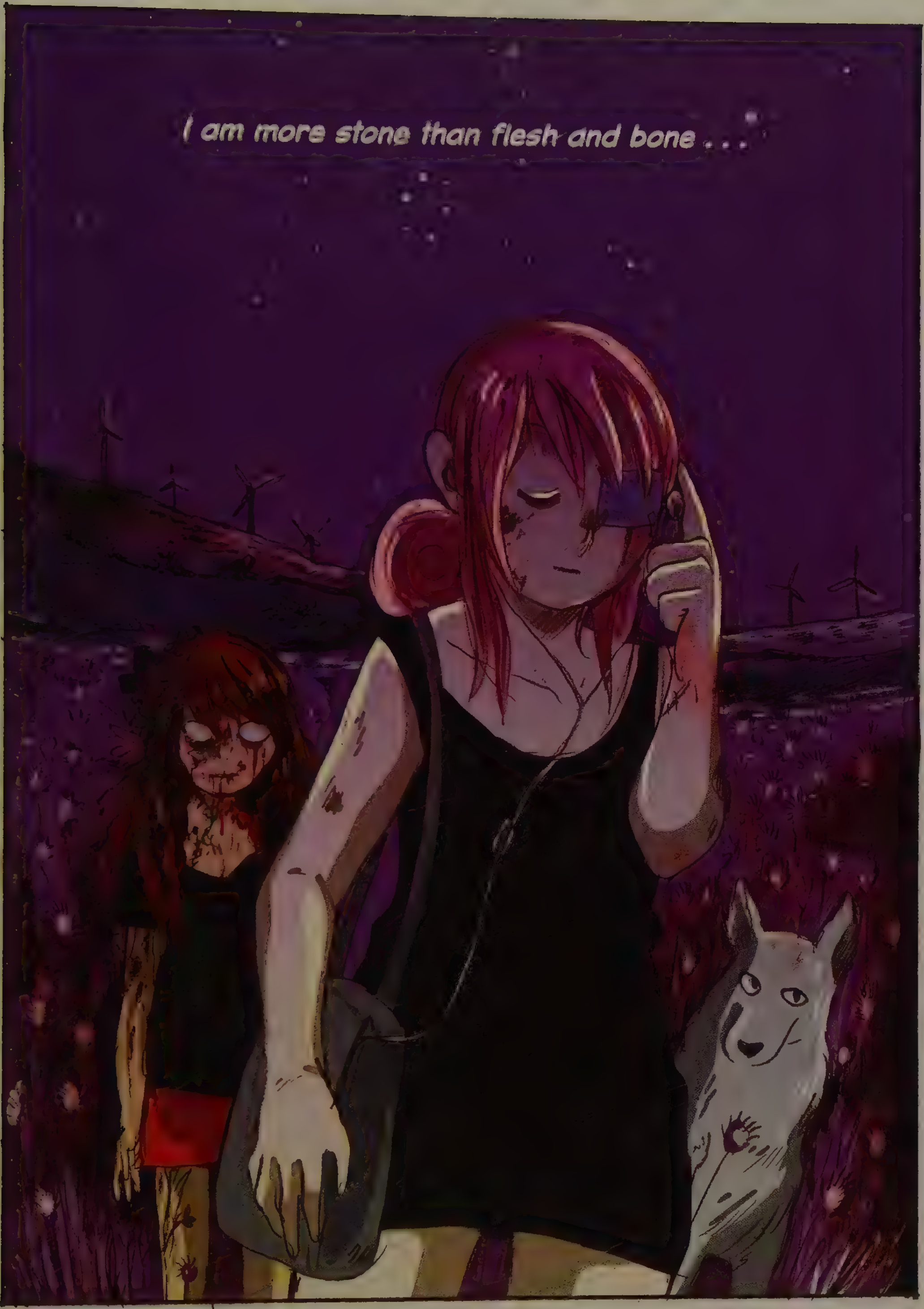

TAP TAP

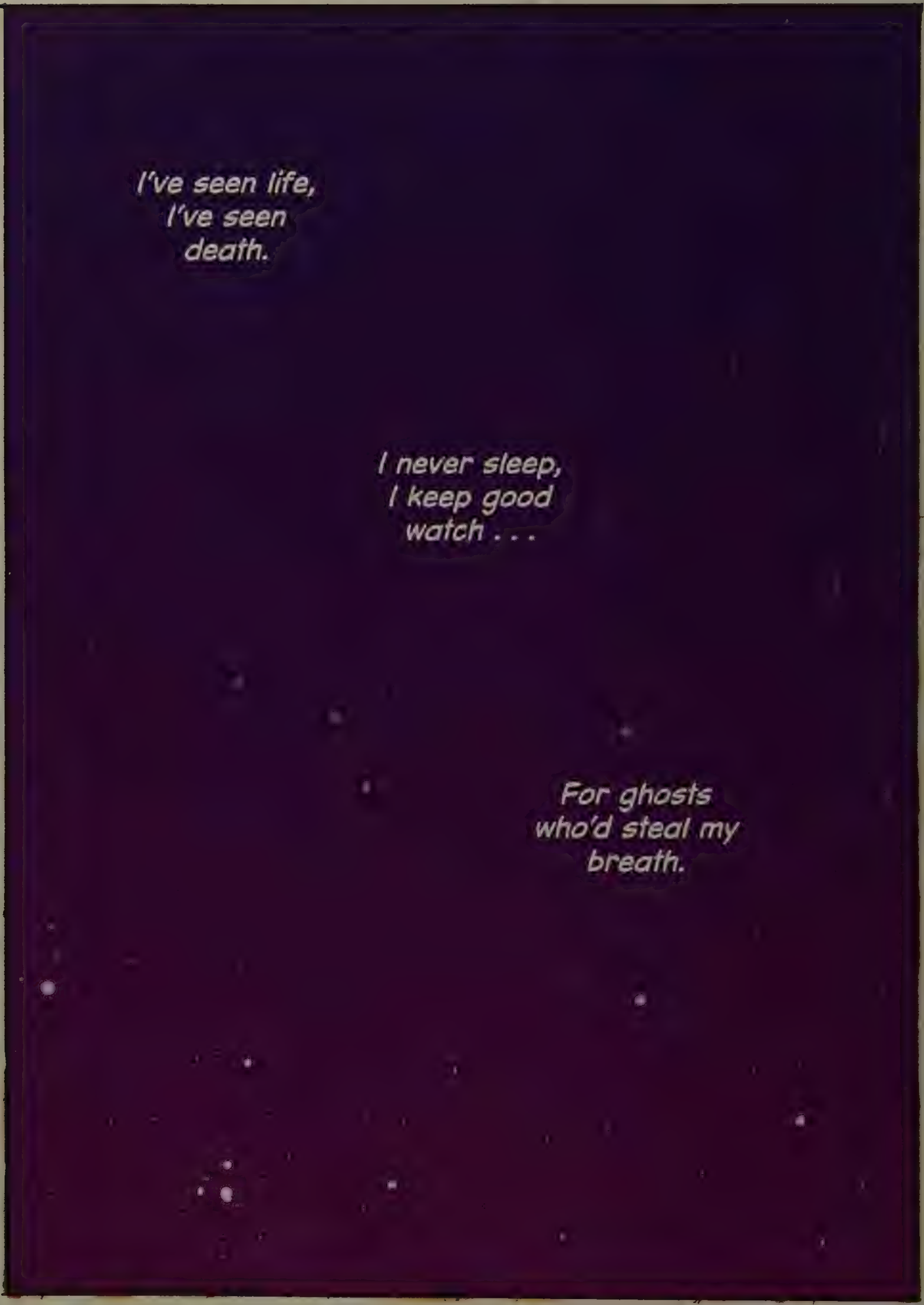


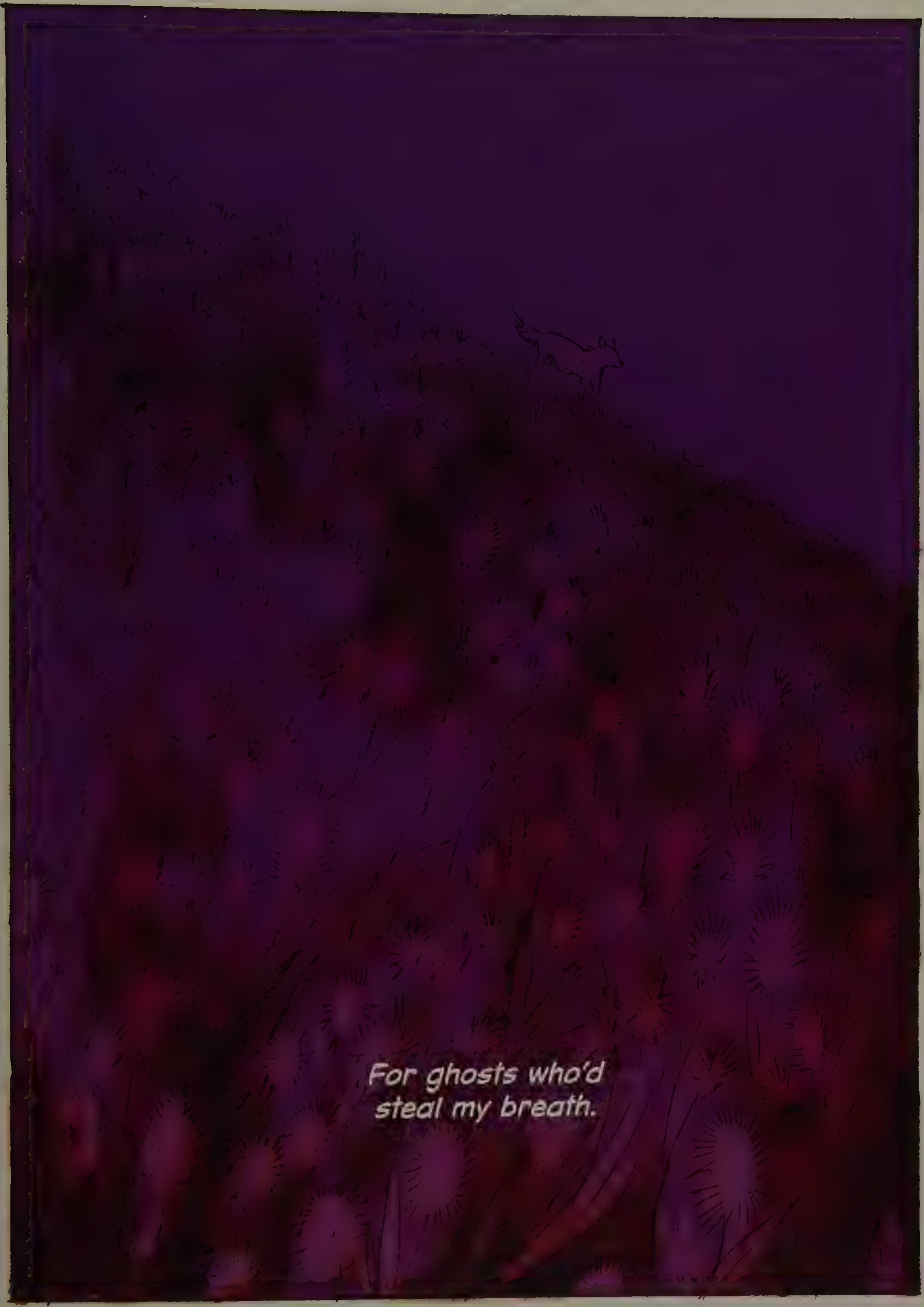

Don't go to the city, Eva.
They won't like you inside.




Come with me.


I am more stone than flesh and bone . . .

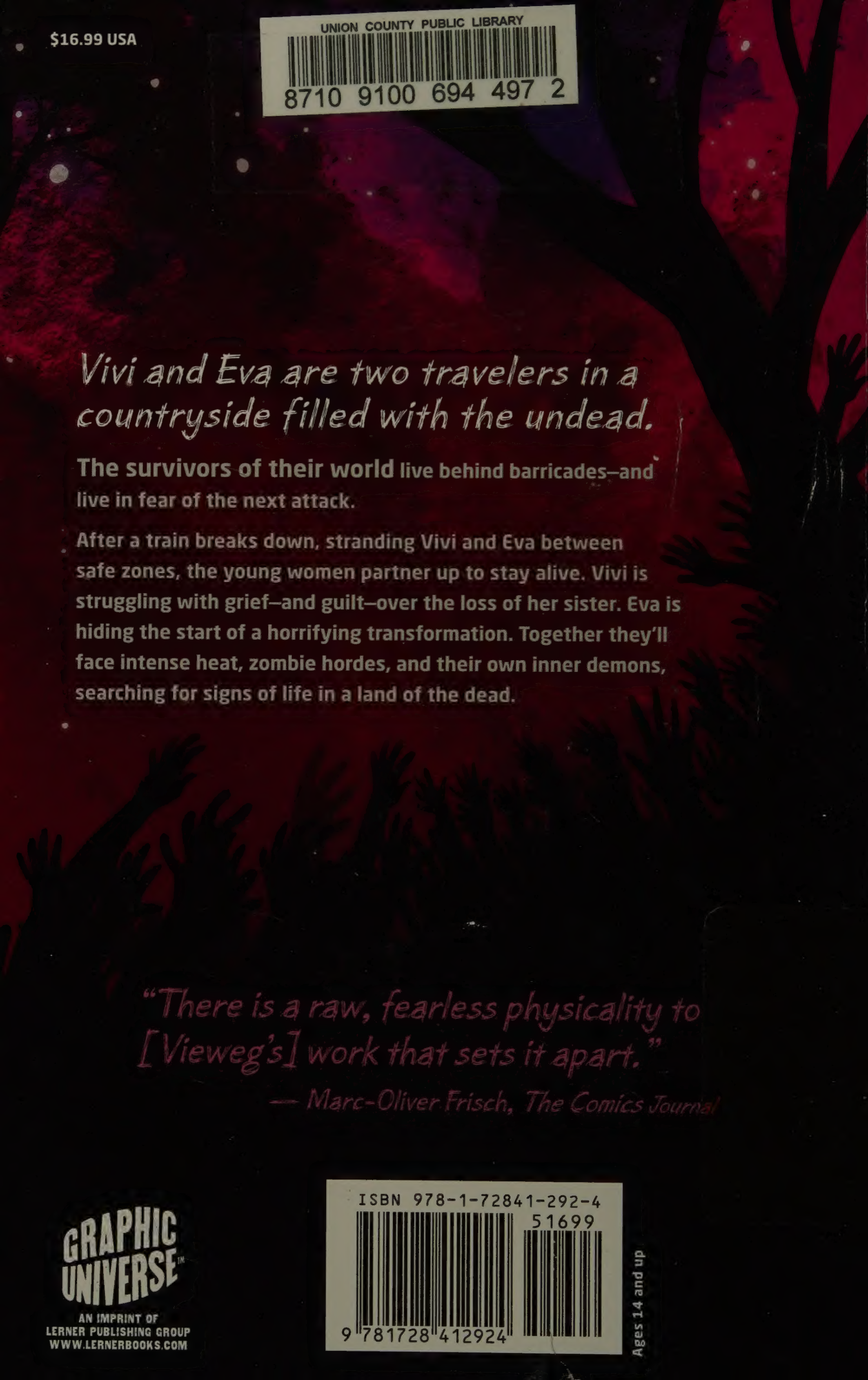

I've seen life, I've seen death.
I never sleep, I keep good watch . . .
For ghosts who'd steal my breath.


For ghosts who'd
steal my breath.

About the Author

Olivia Vieweg was born in Jena, Germany and received her degree in visual communications at Bauhaus University, Weimar. In addition to creating comics, she illustrates children's books. She also adapted the original, German-language edition of *Ever After*—titled *EndZeit*—for the cinema, writing the screenplay of the feature film by director Carolina Hellsgård. Find her online at https://www.olivia-vieweg.de and on Twitter at @olivia_vieweg.

SEP 2020



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Vivi and Eva are two travelers in a countryside filled with the undead.

The survivors of their world live behind barricades—and live in fear of the next attack.

After a train breaks down, stranding Vivi and Eva between safe zones, the young women partner up to stay alive. Vivi is struggling with grief—and guilt—over the loss of her sister. Eva is hiding the start of a horrifying transformation. Together they'll face intense heat, zombie hordes, and their own inner demons, searching for signs of life in a land of the dead.

> *"There is a raw, fearless physicality to [Vieweg's] work that sets it apart."*
>
> *— Marc-Oliver Frisch, The Comics Journal*

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